

Opening of northern crossing delayed

AMMAN (AFP) — The opening of a second Israel-Jordan crossing had been delayed until the peace treaty goes into effect with the ratification by Parliament here and a Royal Decree, a Jordanian official said Monday. The Sheikh Hussein crossing, which opened in 1994, was to have been opened five days after the agreement. "The crossing will only be opened once the treaty becomes official with a Royal Decree following its ratification by both Houses of parliament," the official told AFP. Parliament's foreign affairs committee has since Sunday been studying the treaty, which requires a simple majority of the 80 deputies in the assembly. The treaty has the support of most of the deputies. The crossing will be the second after the one of Araba near the Gulf of Aqaba, inaugurated on August 8 for third-country tourists by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Crown Prince Hassan. It will be located near the Sheikh Hussein Bridge on the Jordan River.

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Israel, Tunisia plan low-level ties

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel and Tunisia agreed Monday to establish low-level ties within half a year, Israel Radio reported. The two sides will set up economic interest offices in each others' countries in a first step, the report said. Israel's foreign ministry had no immediate comment. Tunisia is following in the steps of Morocco which established formal ties with Israel in September.

Four foreigners kidnapped in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A Muslim group claimed Monday to have abducted three Britons and a U.S. national from New Delhi and have threatened to kill them unless 10 named Kashmiri militants were freed by the Indian government. The unknown group mailed the letter to the headquarters of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) here along with passports of the three Britons reportedly abducted by them. Similar letters were also reportedly sent to the offices of Voice of America radio. Senior police officials and federal intelligence personnel were in a meeting here late Monday night after the reports of the abductions, sources said.

Al Arqam disbands

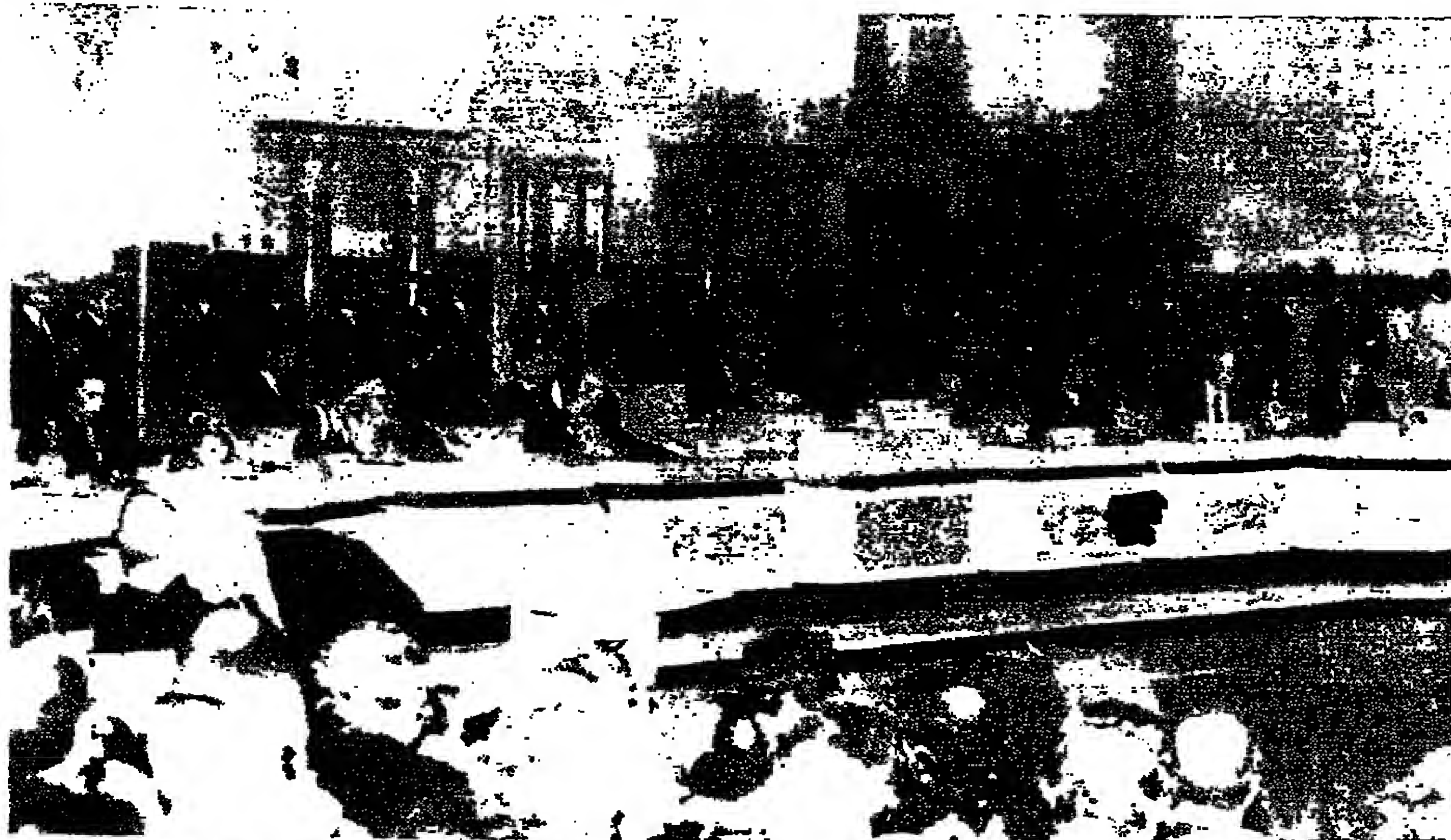
KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia's outlawed Muslim sect Al Arqam disbanded Monday it had announced. The group's founder, who had urged the movement from the true Islamic path, "We have grown up listening to advice. It's from this advice that we realise we ought to follow the wishes of the leadership," Muhammad Nasir Zaini, a spokesman for the Al Arqam, told reporters. Al Arqam founder Asaari Muhammad, 57, said on national television early this month and in a live appearance before Arqam members last week that he had wrongly guided the movement. Mr. Asaari's confession was made just before he was released from a month-long state detention. The movement was banned on August and the government clamped down on members who refused to abandon it.

Israel honours Philip

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel bestowed one of its highest awards on the Duke of Edinburgh on Monday in the name of his mother who saved a Jewish family from the Nazis. The consort of Queen Elizabeth II and his sister Princess George of Hanover received the certificate of "righteous among nations" from Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Jews killed during the Holocaust. Their mother Princess Alice of Greece had three members of the Cohen family for a year in a royal palace in occupied Athens during World War II. She also aided the escape of three other Cohen. One of the survivors, Michel Cohen, was too overcome to speak at the moving ceremony of prayers and music.

Armed gang kidnaps Algerian journalist

ALGIERS (AFP) — An armed gang has kidnapped an Algerian journalist, Kaddour Bousellam, with two other people, in the latest of a wave of attacks on the media by suspected Islamic extremists, press reports said Monday. Mr. Bousellam, 47, who works for the government daily Horizons, was abducted overnight Saturday at Mascara, 250 kilometres southwest of the capital. He was seized from the tent he has been living in with his wife and six children since an earthquake shook the region in August. The gang, some 50 strong, also kidnapped two other people, including a school watchman, and set fire to several public buildings, including the town hall, the reports said.



A partial view of participants in the Casablanca economic summit at its opening session late Sunday (AFP photo)

Officials, businessmen explore investment in Middle East

Casablanca summit gets down to business

Combined agency dispatches

LOFTY WORDS of Mideast peace gave way to the nuts and bolts of foreign investment Monday as government and business leaders from 65 countries sought ways to boost the region's capital-starved economies. More than 1,500 participants in the inaugural Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit opened panel discussions on topics ranging from capital markets and foreign investment to tourism and information technology. "The money is available. It's a matter of creating the proper environment for stability and profitability," Percy Barnevik, head of the Swiss-Swedish engineering company ASEA Brown Boveri, told Monday morning's session. Use of the region's scarce water resources is high on the list of problems that the region could solve through greater cooperation among Israel and Arab states. "We don't talk about it much, but water is really the crucial issue," Mr. Barnevik said. Banking, media business, the environment, dropping trade barriers and boosting the Palestinian economy are also under discussion at the summit which aims to unite the fractious region by creating interdependent economies and raising the standard of living in some of the world's poorest countries. The summit marks the first time Israeli and Arab officials and investors meet to formulate specific investment and cooperation projects. The Israeli delegation said it was bringing 150 business proposals from the private sector worth \$25 billion. In Monday's developments at the summit: Israeli Transport Minister Israel Kassar said his country and Jordan had agreed to set up a joint commission to develop transport links. The commission will meet for the first time on Nov. 19 and 20 in Tel Aviv and will discuss ways to develop "road, port and rail links," Mr. Kassar said after talks with Jordanian officials. A second meeting will be held in Amman. Norwegian company director Terje Osundsen said his country came to the conference with a "special interest" in investing in the region, having brokered secret talks with Israel and the PLO which led to the declaration of principles on autonomy in September 1993. His company Kvaerner, the biggest private engineering company in Norway, is holding meetings with Israel and Jordan to discuss desalination projects and a canal between the Dead Sea and

Mediterranean. A Jordanian tourism official said he had high hopes of luring investors to his country. The Jordan Rift Valley and the port of Aqaba are a priority area for development by both Jordan and Israel. "We have already had JD 120 million worth of applications for projects. Southeast Asian companies are competing for a foothold in the Middle East which is good for us," said the Jordanian official. "A Thai company, Global Capital Inc, are talking about an idea for a 'City of the Bible' — like Disneyland but telling the history of the Bible. We are very interested." Fawad Khalil, Egypt's road and bridges chairman, is looking for investment to build thousands of kilometres of roads to link northern and southern, eastern and western Arab countries together. "Since 1948 this has been impossible because we could not go through Israel," Mr. Khalil said. "We need \$600 million for a 7,000-kilometre road linking Cairo to Mauritania, and another \$400 million for a 1,200-kilometre road from Egypt up to Turkey. If all the Arab countries and Israel join together and ask, I think we will get it." However, Khalil Shehab, of British investment com-

pany Sims UK, said businessmen were still wary of investing in the region. "Political instability which affects the economy still puts them off," said Mr. Shehab, who is looking for investment opportunities for Arab and Western companies at the conference. "If Israel reaches peace with Syria and Lebanon then it will be much easier to invest and everyone will be happy." Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet said Canada is creating a \$60 million development fund to aid the North African countries of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Mr. Ouellet made the announcement at a meeting with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat. "The fund represents the very purpose of the Casablanca summit, which is to consolidate peace by strengthening economic cooperation and development," Mr. Ouellet said. "A dynamic private sector operating in a competitive environment stimulates economic growth and job creation, thus raising the standard of living across all sectors of society." The fund is financed by the Canadian International Development Agency and will

spurred Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's pleas for open contact at the highest level. Haaretz said at least one of the meetings overseen by Gen. Saguy took place in Rome between Nov. 19-24 last year and was mediated by Egypt. Haaretz said Israel's team to the meetings held in Lebanon and Europe over the last year was headed by Gen. Spiegel and the Syrian team by Gen. Tayara. Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami and Israel's army spokesman refused to comment on the report. More than three years of peace talks between Syria and Israel and stalled over the scope of peace and the extent and timing of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. U.S. President Bill Clinton said he achieved progress in talks last week with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad but declined to elaborate. Israel underlined the Syrian role on Sunday saying it was interested in promoting peace moves with Lebanon but stressed that Syria held the key to their success. Uri Dromi, an Israeli government spokesman, described as interesting Lebanese President Elias Hrawi's proposal for a joint Israeli-Lebanese committee on setting a timeframe for Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon within six months (see page 2). "But we have been through this before and we know that nothing happens in Lebanon without Syria's approval," Mr. Dromi told Reuters.

Jordan committed to free market economy, expanded private sector — Prince

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN IS committed to expanding free market-oriented reforms already under way in the Kingdom, which is also developing a progressive transparent regulatory system, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has told the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca. Addressing the plenary session of the summit, attended by representatives of 60 governments and more than 2,000 businessmen and officials from all over the globe, the Crown Prince said Jordan encourages foreign investment and works closely with the private sector. The Crown Prince, who is leading the Jordanian delegation to the unprecedented summit where Arab, Israeli and international politicians and businessmen are discussing means to develop the economies of the Middle East and North Africa, said Jordan envisaged "a Middle East without barriers where private enterprise becomes the engine of growth."

"We are privatising our economy, and already more of Jordan's industry is in the hands of private investors than ever before," he said. "We encourage foreign investments, and we plan to work closely with the private sector to identify priorities for improvement in all these areas." The Jordanian delegation to the conference is presenting proposals for projects, both national and regional, worth \$18 billion. Some of the megaprojects include a pipeline/canal to link the Red Sea with the Dead Sea to address ecological problems as well as to meet water and energy needs through desalination and hydro-electric power generation. Tourism is another major area where Jordan is proposing projects with more than \$1.2 billion. On the sidelines of the conference, Prince Hassan on Sunday and Monday met with senior Arab and foreign officials leading their coun-

tries' delegations to the summit. On Monday, Prince Hassan met with Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller for talks on Jordanian-Turkish relations and regional cooperation. Ms. Ciller voiced her government's support for the Middle East peace process and described the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty which was signed Wednesday as a real step towards achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. Prince Hassan also met with China's deputy foreign minister, the head of the Swedish delegation to the conference and Japan's deputy foreign minister in separate meetings. The talks at these meetings focussed on bilateral relations and the support these countries can offer to peace

See page 7 for full text of the Crown Prince's speech

Israeli army spy chief in 'secret Syria talks'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's military intelligence chief General Uri Saguy has been involved in regular, clandestine meetings with senior Syrian army officers, a newspaper reported Monday. The Haaretz daily said that the security talks had been going on for more than one year in European capitals and occasionally, for convenience sake, in Lebanon through Egyptian mediation. The newspaper did not say if Gen. Saguy took part personally, only that he "accompanied" the meetings. His activities are covered by the military censor.

According to Haaretz, Gen. Baruch Spiegel, head of the liaison with foreign armies, heads the Israeli side. The Syrian officers were led by Gen. Adnan Tayara. He took part in negotiations on security arrangements between the two countries in 1974, a year after the October war in the Middle East when Syria failed to recapture the Golan Heights it lost in the 1967 conflict. He died in April this year. Haaretz quoted Israeli sources as saying the channel was "very important" and was linked to frequent discussions between the two countries' ambassadors in Washington.

Iraq says Israel is behind bombings

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Monday accused Israel of having ordered the bombing that killed four people at a church here. "Such criminal acts, which have evil goals, can only have been perpetrated by agents of the Israeli secret service, Mossad," Iraq's official Al Qadisiyah newspaper said of Sunday's attack. The newspaper also accused Israel of trying "to turn Iraq into a second Lebanon," where rival militias fought each other in the 1975-1990 civil war. It was the first time Iraq blamed Israel for one of a number of bombings here in the last several years that it normally attributes to pro-Iranian agents. Three policemen and a church caretaker were killed when one of the officers tried to defuse a bomb shortly after mass on Sunday, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) and witnesses said. INA said the church caretaker found a suspicious package — a box of baby milk formula with the bomb concealed inside — in the Virgin Mary Chaldean Church in the Karrada district of the capital and alerted police. "Such criminal acts will not tarnish Iraq's image and will not undermine the unity of its people," Al Qadisiyah said, it warned "the Zionists and

House expected to begin floor debate of Jordan-Israel peace treaty next week

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament will in a matter of days present its recommendations on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty to the House, which will start debating it early next week, well-informed parliamentary sources said Monday. The committee, which yesterday held two meetings with government officials on the "technical aspects" of the treaty, will tomorrow discuss the political dimensions of the accord with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the committee's president. Deputy Abdul Karim Al Kabarti (Aqaba), told the Jordan Times. The treaty, which the government presented to the House as a draft law on Saturday, was referred to the committee Sunday after a short debate in which the opposition attacked it as an unconstitutional accord that falls short of realising Jordanian and Arab rights. Forty-seven out of 73 deputies present at Sunday's

session voted in favour of referring the treaty to the committee, while only 19 lawmakers supported the Islamic Action Front's (IAF) motion to reject it. The 23-member Foreign Affairs Committee, in which all the House blocs are represented, began its meeting with a speech from Mr. Kabarti, who urged his colleagues to deal with the treaty with "an open heart and mind and away from attempts to make ideological stands which can be made in the House when debate of the treaty begins." He told the committee members, who include three IAF deputies, that the duty of the panel was to study all aspects of the accord, gather information about it and then present its views to the House. "Before we start," Mr. Kabarti said, "let's agree that there is a deep-rooted heritage of enmity and hatred between us and the idea of an Israeli entity." That, he said, is manifested in many expressions and stands that have formed "our collective conscience for the past decades."

But today the country stands at a threshold of an historic era, which, with the ratification of the treaty, will lead to the birth of a future governed by the logic of peace, Mr. Kabarti said. "The logic of peace conflicts with the mentality of war in that it celebrates heroism and patriotism to protect life and development while the mentality of war urges heroism and patriotism at the expense of life and development," said Mr. Kabarti, a leading member of the National Democratic Coalition. Mr. Kabarti urged his colleagues at the committee to differentiate between the Palestinian cause and the Jordanian cause in dealing with the treaty. "This is not the place to discuss the Palestinian cause, even though it will remain a national and Islamic concern in our conscience," he said. He said the concern today was with the Jordanian cause, and "this is the place to discuss it." Stressing that "he who chose Jordan as his homeland for ever, with its leadership,

borders rights and duties, is the Jordanian," Mr. Kabarti urged members of the committee to be "true to our Jordanian identity and debate the treaty with that in mind." The House debate of the accord is expected to be marked by tension as the opposition, led by the IAF, has asserted it will "fight (the peace treaty) with all our power," before the House takes a vote on it. The House cannot introduce any changes to the treaty to which the Kingdom entered on Oct. 26, with its choices limited to either approving or rejecting it. But parliamentary sources said the House can make recommendations which the government can take into consideration in the bilateral talks it is holding with Israel on economic and development issues. The government has said these talks could take up to nine months before they are finalised. The treaty will go into effect as law after Parliament ratifies it and His Majesty King Hussein signs it into law.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued on page 7)

Lebanon recaptures peace initiative

BEIRUT (AFP) — Buoyed by the prospects of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track of the Middle East peace negotiations, Lebanon is trying to recapture the initiative in its own peace talks with Israel.

After eight months of deadlock, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi offered on Saturday to halt all attacks in South Lebanon for six months in return for a pledge from the Jewish state to withdraw.

Mr. Hrawi said Lebanon was willing to accept the initiative of Israeli Prime Minister (Yitzhak Rabin) and set up immediately a military and political commission with Israel to negotiate with Israel for six months.

"I commit myself that during this six-month period not a single shot will be fired at Israel, so long as the Jewish state commits itself to a total withdrawal according to a timetable to be agreed," he said.

Israeli troops have been deployed in South Lebanon since 1978 in defiance of a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for their immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

Since 1978, Israel has occupied an 1,000-square-kilometre "security zone" to protect its north.

Mr. Rabin had proposed in August an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon over nine months if Lebanon first dismantled the Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas, which have waged an almost daily war against Israeli troops.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouze had dismissed that proposal saying Israel was asking Lebanon to "sell off cheaply" the only card in its hands with nothing in re-

turn.

The Lebanese authorities have repeatedly said the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hizbollah's armed wing which enjoys Syrian backing, had a right to fight an end to the occupation of Lebanese land.

Beirut is in fact proposing to deploy the Lebanese army, backed by U.N. peacekeepers already deployed in South Lebanon, at the international border.

Officials here said Mr. Hrawi's offer was not new but the timing was right.

"It is not a new proposal but the fact that it is being made now is not fortuitous," a high-ranking official told AFP on Sunday, and linked the offer to the results of last Thursday's summit in Damascus between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Lebanon is convinced that progress is being made on the Syrian-Israeli peace track and that this would reflect on Lebanon whose fate has been linked to Syria's since May 1991, under a treaty of friendship and cooperation. "Lebanon has now a margin of manoeuvre because it is the first time that Assad spoke of 'normal relations with Israel,'" the official said, referring to remarks Mr. Assad made at a joint press conference with Mr. Clinton.

"A very big step was taken during Clinton's visit to Damascus," the official said. Mr. Clinton has said progress but no breakthrough was made during his visit to Syria, while Mr. Assad spoke of "fruitful and positive talks."

On Sunday U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said "substantial progress"



Elias Hrawi

was made, adding, however, it was logical for Syria and Israel to try and show that the progress was limited to reinforce their positions.

The Syrian-Israeli talks have been deadlocked over the scope and timing of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights which Israel seized in 1967.

"The situation in South Lebanon is much simpler than on the Golan Heights because Israel has no settlements or heavy weapons deployed permanently in the south," a Lebanese political observer said.

Stef seeks French help

Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Pierre Sfeir, named Sunday as one of 30 new cardinals to be appointed next month by Pope John Paul II, called on France to help his

native Lebanon "recover its independence."

Mr. Sfeir, who will be the third successive Maronite patriarch to become a cardinal, told a French television station after arriving in Paris for a three-day official visit Sunday: "We hope that France will aid Lebanon to recover its independence, its sovereignty and its freedom of decision."

During his visit to France, Mr. Sfeir is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. It is his first visit to France since 1986.

The two other Maronite cardinals were Mr. Sfeir's immediate predecessors, Antoine Pierre Khoriche and Paul Meouchi.

Mr. Sfeir, 74, the son of a wealthy Lebanese land owner, was ordained into the priesthood in 1950 and became bishop in 1961. He became patriarch of Antioch in 1986.

He is widely active in Lebanese Christian affairs and as head of the Maronite church in Lebanon played a leading role in trying to encourage dialogue between the country's various warring parties during the 15-year war that ended in 1990.

He is the spiritual leader of some five million Maronites living in Lebanon and abroad, mainly in France, the United States, Brazil and Australia.

Maronites are Christians who mainly live in Lebanon and are followers of Saint Maron, a fourth century monk who founded the sect.

Mr. Sfeir celebrated mass with Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger in Paris's Notre Dame cathedral Sunday.



ARMED SHOPPING: Heavily armed fighters loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani ride in the back of their commander's car while shopping during a lull in

fighting on the south Kabul frontlines (see page 12) (AFP photo)

Israeli excitement tinged with unease

SHEIKH HUSSEIN BRIDGE (AP) — They came by the carload, day-tripping couples with children and grandparents, to gaze at a bridge on the Jordan River that leads, so they hope, to a shining future.

But among the hordes of Israeli sightseers staring agog this weekend at the new bridge, the bulldozers and the Israeli and Jordanian soldiers chatting to each other, some were wondering: Would peace with Jordan be like the 15-year-old peace with Egypt, cold and distant?

"I see that sign saying 'welcome to Israel,' and I get butterflies in my stomach. This is terrific," exclaimed Shlomo Schwartz, who drove 100 kilometres from the Israeli coast to see for himself Saturday.

But Mr. Schwartz, a former soccer star, sometimes found himself at odds with other, more sceptical sightseers.

Over and over, people asked why there were no similar crowds on the other side.

The question reflects a fear, rooted in the experience with Egypt, that the other side may not share their enthusiasm about the peace treaty.

Israelis often complain that Egypt, despite exchanging ambassadors and opening its borders, keeps the Jewish state at arm's length. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak never visits here, they fret. Trade is at a trickle. Israeli

tourists to Egypt outnumber Egyptian visitors 7-1 with 118,000 Israelis visiting Egypt and 16,200 Egyptians visiting Israel so far this year.

Israeli officials insist that with Jordan, things will be different; that King Hussein pointedly speaks of "a warm peace"; that Egypt and Israel have the vast Sinai desert between them, while Israelis and Jordanians have lived side by side in peace and war.

Albert Cohen, a tour bus driver who lives in nearby Beit Shean, remembered how he used to gaze through a rifle scope at the other side, wondering what kind of people lived there.

The Sheikh Hussein Bridge lies on an ancient east-west trade route across the Jordan River 20 kilometres south of the Sea of Galilee. It was blown up in 1948.

Construction workers have spent five hectic weeks clearing away the old bridge and building the new one. A 3.7-hectare customs terminal is going up. "Welcome to Israel" and speed limit signs have already gone up in Arabic, Hebrew and English.

"Paving the peace," say government billboards along a narrow road which is being widened to accommodate dozens of Jordanian cargo trucks a day, bound for Israeli ports.

"I only hope it's a real peace," said Adva Gat, who brought her four-year-old daughter to the site. "What's certain is that our daughter will grow up with a very different feeling about Jordan."

dan from the one we grew up with.

"We very much hope we are making peace with a nation, and not with a man," said her husband, Tomer, a student.

"You have to try," Mr. Schwartz said. "We've had ceasefires, truces, armistices, disengagement agreements, but we've never had a chance to try peace. Now's the chance."

Mr. Cohen, the bus driver, agreed. He said he used to back the right-wing Likud Party, but peace had changed him. "If this thing succeeds, I'll move over to Yitzhak Rabin," he said.

"This is history. This is wonderful," exclaimed David Korman, an insurance salesman.

"The moment they open the border I'm dropping everything, jumping in the car and going to Jordan."

This eagerness is natural for a country cooped up for much of its history behind closed, hostile borders.

"When something is closed to you for so long, forbidden, off-limits, it makes you all the more anxious to see it," said Naomi Truman, a kibbutznik, from nearby collective farm settlement of Kibbutz Deganya Bet.

I've lived in this valley for 30 years," said her husband, Matti. "I've spent many nights in the bomb shelters with my children, and I never imagined something like this could happen."

Sinai blooms with drug plants

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's Sinai desert became the country's main source of drugs this year after Lebanon cracked down on areas that grew cannabis and poppy, the head of the anti-drug squad said.

"The security services have seized 138 million poppy plants (source of opium and heroin) and seven million cannabis plants (hashish) in the Sinai since the beginning of 1994," General Essam Al Tirsawi told a conference on drugs.

Security forces confiscated a total of 90 million plants of both varieties the previous year, the Interior Ministry official added.

"The increase is due to the fact that the quantity of drugs smuggled by traffickers from Lebanon into Egypt has dramatically decreased since the restrictions imposed by the Lebanese and Syrian authorities," he added.

"The Sinai has become the main source of drugs in Egypt," Gen. Tirsawi said. Until now Egypt consumed rather than exported drugs, he added.

Cairo, home to 15 million inhabitants or about one fourth of the total population of Egypt, "absorbs 60 per cent of the drug trade in Egypt," Gen. Tirsawi said. He said the quantity of drugs seized in Egypt represented one fifth of the total amount of drugs smuggled into the country.

In 1993 around 91 kilograms of heroin were seized, 50 per cent more than the previous year, he said.

It is easier to grow illicit plants in the Sinai desert because it is sparsely populated.

Egyptian security forces have carried out a dozen of large-scale operations in the Sinai since the beginning of 1994, Gen. Tirsawi said. He also reported that 15,110 people were referred to courts in 1993 on charges of drug trafficking or drug consumption against 13,782 in 1992.

Drug traffickers risk the death sentence under a 1989 law while users risk hard labour.

Mohammad Al Salakawi, of the national centre for scientific research, said "one per cent of Egypt youths use drugs but the number of real addicts is lower."

IAF condemns Casablanca economic summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) on Monday issued a statement condemning the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca as very dangerous to the Arab and Islamic nations, charging that it was convened solely to benefit the Israeli economy.

Signed by IAF Secretary-General Isahak Farhan, the statement said the Arab and Islamic nations should "beware of the consequences of implementing this conference's resolutions and recommendations as they are bound to severely damage their economies."

Noting that the conference was being attended by a large Israeli delegation including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the statement said that the meeting "marks a clear sign on the part of the

organisers to ensure an end to the Arab boycott of Israel."

Noting that the conference was preceded by a decision on the part of Arab Gulf states to end a boycott against companies dealing with Israel, the statement said that any move to end the boycott will be illegal and in violation of the Arab League's regulations.

Referring to Mr. Rabin's statement at the conference that there was no more separate Israeli economy and Arab economy but rather a Middle East economy, the statement said that this declaration clearly reflects the "U.S.-Israeli intention of imposing hegemony on the region."

"This declaration reflects the first dangerous results of the peace treaties signed with

the Zionist enemy and constitutes a clear penetration of the Arab and Islamic world, underlining U.S. hegemony on the Arab oil wealth," it said.

"It is surprising to see the Arab common market failing to rise after decades of its initiation while the so-called Middle East economic project is fast emerging as a fact, with American backing and American drive to ensure a strong Israeli economy," it said.

"What is more surprising is to see Arab and Muslim nations attending a conference with Israel with the exclusion of Iraq, Syria, Libya and Iran and with Iraq and Libya continuing to be subjected to unjust embargos," the statement added.

"This conference, it said, "practically marks the demise

of the institution of the Arab League and an illegal termination of the Arab boycott of Israel and poses a grave danger to the Arab economy at the local, regional and international levels."

An Iranian newspaper also condemned the economic conference in Casablanca, telling Arab states they should not allow Israel into their markets.

The Tehran Times said an Israeli role in Arab markets would only benefit the Jewish state.

"The Zionist firms and their sister companies in the U.S. will establish an economic imperialism over Arab lands which will entail further economic misery for the Arab people," said the paper, quoted by the official Iranian news agency IRNA.

Algeria set to mark anniversary of its war for independence

ALGIERS (AFP) — Ravaged by political violence and facing a perilous future, Algeria on Tuesday marks the start of its independence struggle 40 years ago, recalling a lost epoch of exhilarating national solidarity and purpose.

Having fought to win its freedom from France in a seven-year war that began Nov. 1, 1954, the country since January 1992 has been in the throes of a bloody internal conflict between government forces and Islamic militants.

By an unofficial count taken over the last two months, 440 armed militants have been killed. According to official figures limited to the period from February, 1992 to December 1993, the conflict claimed the lives of

10,000 people and did two billion dollars' worth of damage.

Not surprisingly, Prime Minister Mokdad Sif has said this year's independence ceremonies will, take place "in sobriety, reflection and reflection."

But he stressed that they should also show the commitment of the Algerian people "to rooting out the destabilisation" that threatens the nation, a reference to the clash between the government and militant Islamic groups.

The violence erupted after authorities cancelled a second round of legislative elections in January 1992 that Islam-inspired candidates were poised to win.

On Sunday the government and the militants har-

dened their positions, issuing provocative statements that acknowledged a breakdown in negotiations and appeared to point to an escalation in the fighting.

Hours after a statement by President Liamine Zeroul accusing the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) of promoting terrorism, Mohammed Lamari, army chief of staff and a hardline opponent of Islamic radicals, was promoted to the newly created rank of lieutenant-general.

A Defence Ministry statement announced Gen. Lamari's promotion and that of four other generals to the rank of major-general as authorities continued a crackdown against the militants, killing nine in separate raids on Friday and Saturday.

The media here published a message from Gen. Lamari to his forces in which he urged his men, "at whatever cost and sacrifice," to mobilise against "the obscurantist and retrograde" forces.

In a FIS statement received in Bonn, Gen. Lamari was denounced as "a criminal," responsible for "threats and calls to terror." The communiqué also called on Mr. Zeroul to resign if he proved unable to end the killings.

The president late Saturday disclosed that negotiations between the government and FIS leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj had reached a stalemate. He accused the two, both currently under house arrest, of continuing to "encourage terrorism and extremism."

The Algerian press in both

French and Arabic gave maximum prominence Sunday to Mr. Zeroul's statement and predicted a stiffening of the government's attitude to the FIS.

There are increasing signs of a new turn of the ratchet that could see the FIS leaders sent back to prison," the Tribune wrote.

Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj, released from prison Sept. 13 in hopes that a dialogue with the government would ensue, are demanding freedom for all their militants as well as the right to meet their partisans openly in order to debate a possible ceasefire.

Hardline Islamic movements, which also include the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), have underground forces at work both here in

Algeria and in the Jijel region, 200 kilometres to the east.

In some districts around the capital they have imposed a ban on co-educational school classes, music and sales of newspapers and have required women to wear scarves covering their hair.

The groups in recent weeks have cranked up the level of violence. Six journalists have been murdered in the past month, as have eight foreigners.

The government meanwhile must also grapple with political discontent on the part of militant Berbers living in the Kabylia region in eastern Algeria. Students and teachers have been boycotting classes since early October, demanding recognition of their language.

For Algerian activists 40 years ago, there was but a single enemy: France. In the early hours of Nov. 1 more than 70 attacks and acts of sabotage against French colonial targets were staged throughout Algeria.

They marked the start of a tightly disciplined insurrection organised by the National Liberation Front that led to independence for Algeria on July 3, 1962.

The uprising 40 years ago took France still reeling from its 1954 defeat at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam — completely by surprise, as none of its ringleaders had been known to French intelligence.

The war in Algeria was eventually to take the lives of 200,000 to 300,000 people

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Alice au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Embarkement Porte N1
18:00 Le Vent Des Moutons
18:30 News in French
18:45 Varieties
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:10 The Nature of Things
20:30 Leave It To Beaver
21:30 Shades of L.A.
22:00 News in English
22:30 House of Eliott
23:50 The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES

05:29 (Sunrise) Doha
05:47 (Sunrise) Doha
11:19 Dhuhr
14:15 Asr
16:52 Maghrib
18:10 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
St. John's Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Assian Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 717331
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717251
Assian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654972
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 813295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Unstable weather conditions will prevail, so it will be dusty with a chance of thunder showers, and winds becoming southerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of thunder showers. Winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.

MIN/MAX temp.

Amman 14/27
Aqaba 21/31
Deserts 15/ 29

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 20 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 27, Aqaba 30, Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 46 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghazi Abdullah 884286
Dr. Jamil Maraga 762499
Dr. Nidal Al-Jarrah 751672
Dr. Khalid Mu'add 743500
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 770336
Al Asena pharmacy 67055
Nairouhi pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Samsoud pharmacy 627660
Nairouhi pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qasbi (-)
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Misbah Hijawi 981217

Khiflith pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 821111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 893690
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 677101
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 686100
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 630321
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordans 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 680100

Electric Power

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldil Maternity, J. Amn 642416
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. 642416/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Simsimani 664171/4
Sheikhsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843045
Al-Musader Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mutajir 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa Maternal Hospital 686100
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986733
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72725
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
07:50 Dhahran (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:25 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 London (RJ)
10:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:50 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
01:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
02:30 Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
17:05 Rome (AZ)
20:00 Aden (DY)
22:00 Beirut (ME)
23:20 Amsterdam (KL)
23:50 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
07:30 Aqaba (RJ)
08:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:35 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:50 Vienna, Brussels (RJ)
11:55 Paris (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:05 Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)
20:05 Laraca (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:25 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:10 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
04:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:15 Laraca, Rome (AZ)
13:50 Vienna (OS)
18:45 Damascus (AZ)
21:00 Aden (DY)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Arr. Amman 5:40 p.m. every Sunday



ROTARIAN VISIT: His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives at the Royal Court Carlo Ravizza, chairman of the International Rotary Club, and an accompanying delegation. Mr. Ravizza extended to the King an invitation to be the keynote speaker at an International Rotary Club

conference due to be held in Nice, France, in June next year. Mr. Ravizza said the invitation to King Hussein was extended in a show of appreciation on the part of the world rotarians for the King's continued efforts towards the establishment of a just and permanent peace in the Middle East region (Petra photo)

Jordanian, Croatian commerce groups to sign economic cooperation agreement

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — An agreement on economic cooperation between the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and the Croatian Chamber of Economy will be signed on Thursday, according to Federation President Mohammad Asfour on Monday.

The agreement, which may be joined by the Bosnian Chamber of Economy, "if the Bosnian side expresses its wish to do so," pays special attention to investment projects and commercial cooperation between Croatia and Jordan.

The protocol foresees cooperation in the fields of trade and maritime arbitration, trademark registration, patent application and mutual assistance in the case of business disputes, cooperation at fairs as well as the periodic exchange of economic, trade and law information, and common professional seminars and

trade conferences. As part of a one-week trade mission to Jordan, about a dozen Croatian officials and businesspersons met with their Jordanian counterparts here Monday.

Mr. Asfour welcomed the Croatian representatives and expressed his hope for peace in Croatia and its neighbouring countries. He said the trade balance between the two countries was still in favour of Croatia and that efforts should be made to equalise it.

"Jordan's industry is becoming prominent," said Mr. Asfour, "Jordanians are very competitive and the standards of production are high. There is no reason why we shouldn't increase our exports to Croatia."

Croatia's exports to Jordan, mainly pharmaceuticals, textiles, sweets and paper, went up from JD 144,000 in 1992 to JD

653,000 in 1994, while Jordan's exports to Croatia, limited to tomatoes and domestic fuel heaters, were zero in 1992 and JD 29,000 in 1993.

Vjekoslav Tomasic, director of international relations at the Croatian Chamber of Economy in Zagreb, stressed the importance of bilateral economic cooperation between Croatia, Bosnia and Jordan, adding that a tri-lateral trade delegation had already met with U.S. officials in September.

Mr. Tomasic said that due to its geographic location in the west of the country, Croatia industry had suffered relatively little damage from the war in former Yugoslavia.

"Our damages amounted to \$900 million, while the entire war damages amount to an estimated \$20 billion, Mr. Tomasic explained.

He said there were good reasons for foreign investment in Croatia, particularly because the Croatian

government makes no distinction between domestic and foreign investors, who are allowed to own a 100 per cent share in Croatia.

Further advantages, according to Mr. Tomasic, were Croatia's geographic position in the centre of south east Europe, its traditional business ties with the countries of Western Europe, its liberal legal framework, the skilled labour force, low wages (\$200-\$300/month) and low corporate taxes (\$25%).

The Croatian representatives, all of them from the electronic industries, Monday also met Mohammad Smadi, secretary general of Jordan's Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Dr. Smadi stressed the importance of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty to ensure a secure climate that can attract foreign investors.

After the talks at the ministry, the Croatian delegates met individually with Jordanian counterparts.

Last Jordanian political detainee arrives from Syria

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian Baathist activist Dafi Jamaani, released on Sunday from a Syrian jail after 23 years of incarceration, has returned to his family home in Madaba, family members said.

Mr. Jamaani, 67, was the last of Jordanian Baathist leaders who were put in prison when Hafez Al Assad staged a bloodless coup in Syria, toppling President Nureddine Al Atassi and assuming power in 1971.

President Assad, who released some of the detainees in the mid-70s, steadfastly rejected all appeals for the release of the rest until recently.

Three other Jordanians Baathist leaders detained along with Mr. Jamaani were released in 1992 and 1993. They were Mjalli Nasraween, Yousef Bourji and Hakam Al Fayez. Hassan Khatib, who was detained for his Palestinian national activities, was also released late last year.

Ex-president Atassi was freed last year when he fell seriously ill; he died in a Paris hospital shortly thereafter.

There was no immediate explanation why the Syrian leadership decided to free Mr. Jamaani, but the release fitted into a pattern that analysts believe stemmed from a belief in Damascus that none of the old guard leadership of the Baathists posed any serious threat to the regime of President Assad.

All the Jordanians detained by President Assad, who was an army colonel when he staged the 1971 coup, were members of the pan-Arab leadership of the Baathist Party who did not agree with his coup or his single-handed leadership of the country. Also detained were some Iraqis and Syrians as well as other Arabs.

The Associated Press identified those remaining in Syrian detention as Mohammad Ashawi, who was interior minister under Mr. Atassi, Abdul Hami Mouqdad and Fawzi



Dafi Jamaani

Ridha. It said they were all Syrian.

Following the coup in Damascus, the pan-Arab leadership of the Baathist Party split. A pro-Iraqi wing of the leadership moved to Baghdad asserting it represented the legitimate party and challenged the pro-Syrian faction. This rivalry was partly

responsible for the schism that exists today between President Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Each claims he represents the legitimate pan-Arab leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party and maintains political parties under the same names as this power base.

The release of the Jordanian Baathists detained in Syria was a key demand of many Jordanian groups for years. At several points, His Majesty King Hussein also intervened, but President Assad did not relent.

Until his arrest on June 25, 1971, Mr. Jamaani had been deputy general commander of Palestine Liberation Organisation forces. Before entering political life, he had served as a high-ranking officer in the Jordanian army.

Ten Jordanians, mainly students who were rounded up in the early 1980s, are still imprisoned in Syria. Furthermore, there are Hatem Zureikat, incarcerated in 1978 and Sa'id Hatamleh, in detention since 1984.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday visits the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to discuss cooperation between the ministry and the private sector

Majali sees tourism as network of services; urges ministry cooperation with private sector

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday said that tourism is not just set of archaeological sites which visitors want to see, but rather a network involving administrative, recreational and other services such as transport and communications which should be placed at the disposal of tourists.

Speaking during a visit to the Ministry of Tourism, Dr. Majali urged ministry officials to collaborate closely with the private sector in

promoting the tourism industry and better utilising the Kingdom's treasures of archaeological and historical attractions.

He said such cooperation was expected to attract more investors in this industry with beneficial results for the national economy.

"To succeed in such an endeavour, the prime minister said, the tourism ministry like all the other government departments should abolish bureaucratic formalities and

complicated routine in order to confront the requirements of the coming stage and create the proper climate for investment by local, Arab and foreign investors.

The peace treaty signed with Israel last Wednesday, he added, opens the way for better opportunities for social and economic growth and openness to the outside world.

The premier said the peace treaty has secured the restoration of Jordan's sovereignty over its lost land

and water resources and marked the end of long sufferings for the Jordanian people. It has opened the door for the Jordanians to dedicate their potentials and their efforts towards construction and attaining progress and development in the new era of peace.

Minister of State and acting Tourism Minister Abdullah Jazi was present at the meeting along with members of the ministry's planning committee.

Women NGO officers to discuss joint plan for Arab World report to Beijing conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Women leaders from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the Arab World will convene in Amman Tuesday to discuss a proposed joint plan for these organisations ahead of a five-day general meeting by the same groups on Nov. 3.

Hafsa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), said the liaison officers will refer their findings and the joint plan to the 750 delegates representing NGOs and representatives of regional and international organisations at their coming three-day meeting.

The Nov. 3 meeting is

scheduled to include 40 workshops dealing with issues of concern to women and their development and participation in socio-economic life, and will be held under the theme "equality, development and peace."

GFJW sources said that the 750 delegates will focus on women's status in the Arab World in general as part of preparations for the Arab World report to be submitted to World Conference on Women in next year.

On Oct. 25, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma announced that the national report on the status of women had been finalised

and would be submitted to the Nov. 3 meeting here.

She said the report covered the following international relations and women's rights, human rights, women under Islam, the role of women's organisations in promoting the women in socio-economic development, women in rural regions, women carrying out small size projects and women and the protection of the environment.

According to Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, an exhibition will be organised on the sidelines of the meeting displaying different items of publications and brochures on women's lives in their respective countries.

There will also be a film presentation on Arab women's achievements, she said.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh said the Nov. 3 meeting will endorse the joint plan of action for Arab women to be held under the patronage of Princess Basma on Nov. 6.

That five-day meeting will be attended by ministers of planning, women's affairs and social development in the Arab World.

Both the Nov. 3 and the Nov. 6 conferences are being organised in cooperation with the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma visits policewomen's HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday visited the policewomen's headquarters and discussed women's issues in the presence of Public Security Department (PSD) Director Abdul Rahman Udwan. The Princess urged the policewomen to participate in the general efforts to improve Jordanian women's status by employing their various acquired skills in the police force.

Non-resident envoy named to New Zealand

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree issued Monday approved the appointment of Hani Tabbarah as non-resident ambassador to New Zealand. Mr. Tabbarah currently serves as the Kingdom's ambassador to Australia. Another decree, also issued Monday, appointed Moham-

mad Abu Nowar as ambassador at the Foreign Ministry.

Panel meets on Abu Zant case

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee, formed by the Lower House of Parliament to investigate the case of Deputy Abdul Mun'em Abu Zant who was attacked by unknown assailants at a mosque last Friday, Monday met under the chairmanship of House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour and discussed a mechanism for the committee's task. The committee also listened to comments by Interior Minister Salameh Hamad and Justice Minister Hisham Tell concerning the case. Sheikh Abu Zant was still in hospital at King Hussein Medical Centre, receiving treatment for injuries he sustained in the attack. Parliament has since issued a statement condemning the attack; the case is also being investigated by the judiciary.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

Lecture in Arabic entitled "What is New in U.S. Middle Eastern Foreign Policy" by Dr. Samir Mawri at Abdul Bassem Shousha Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

PLAY

Play for children (in Arabic) entitled Hakaya Abu Al Ajab (Strange Stories) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of art by Adnan Al Sharif at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

A special exhibition of "Polluted City — the Monuments" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of oil paintings by Iman Khaled and Fawzi Rasoul at Baladna Art Gallery.

Art exhibition by Otho Beislo and an exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

Exhibition of textiles artist and patchwork by Tunfikki Haddadin at the Gallery located at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 630128).

The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Ain Art Gallery.

Jordan reform

(Continued from page 1)

in the region. Prince Hassan met with the Swiss economy minister and discussed with him bilateral relations and Switzerland's future role in the region.

In addition, the Crown Prince received the vice-president of the European Investment Bank. Discussion at the meeting focussed on means of enhancing Europe's involvement in the region and the future role of the bank in the Middle East.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and a delegation representing the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) joined the meeting.

At the expanded meeting, talks centred on visions and programmes for future projects that might be carried out on the guidelines of the Casablanca summit.

The Crown Prince briefed the gathering on the Jordanian economy and the problems that have been facing it, especially as a result of migrations, the most recent in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

On Sunday, Prince Hassan was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by King Hassan II of Morocco for delegations participating in the conference. The Moroccan monarch lauded the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and described it as a real accomplishment on the way to achieving real peace in the Middle East.

Prince Hassan also met with Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet and discussed with him ways of activating the international role in supporting the Middle East region.

U.S. UNIVERSITY FAIRS

The Linden Tour
November 1994
AMMAN

Saturday, November 5
5:00-8:00 p.m.
Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel
Jebel Amman
in cooperation with AMIDEAST

At the U.S. University Fairs you will meet admissions officials from the participating universities who can answer your questions about:

- ★ admission requirements
- ★ academic programmes
- ★ costs and financial aid
- ★ housing and extracurricular activities
- ★ application procedures

A presentation on U.S. higher education will be given during the first hour of the fairs. Admission is free of charge and appointments are not required.

Participating Universities

American International College	Knox College
University of Arkansas, Little Rock	University of Miami
Ashland University	Mills College
Beloit College	College of Mount St. Joseph
Bowling Green State University	University of New Haven
Colby College	Ohio Dominican College
Columbia University	University of the Pacific
University of Connecticut	Saint Andrews College
University of Denver	College of Saint Catherine
Drexel University	Saint Mary's College of California
Duquesne University	Saint Michael's College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Suffolk University
Emerson College	Valdosta State University
Golden-Bacon College	Western Michigan University
Hawaii Pacific University	Widener University
University of Hartford	Wilkes University
Keystone Junior College	Worcester Polytechnic Institute

All participating universities are regionally accredited in the United States.
Organized by Linden Educational Services, Bethesda, MD 20814 USA, Fax: 1-301-656-2074

Seoul asks China's help over North Korean nuclear pact

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Monday asked visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng to play a constructive role in ensuring Communist North Korea kept its part of a nuclear deal with the United States.

"Kim asked Beijing to play a constructive role in supporting the accord and in getting the parties to adhere to the pact," a presidential spokesman told reporters after a meeting between Mr. Kim and Mr. Li.

He said Mr. Li, the most senior Communist Chinese official ever to visit South Korea, met Mr. Kim for private talks for an hour before expanded talks with cabinet ministers.

During the meeting, the two agreed inter-Korean talks should resume as early as possible, and that the issue could only be resolved between Seoul and Pyongyang.

"The two agreed that the (U.S.-North Korea) nuclear pact and the emergence of a new North Korean leadership would provide opportunities to create fresh inter-Korean relations," the spokesman said.

In an agreement reached in Geneva, Washington said it would provide Pyongyang with light-water reactors to replace graphite reactors that produce plutonium, the key ingredient for making nuclear arms.

North Korea in turn agreed to halt construction of two nearly completed reactors and to forgo reprocessing of spent uranium fuel rods. The West suspects North Korea of extracting weapons-grade plutonium from the spent rods to make bombs.

China is North Korea's only remaining major ally and South Korea hopes for Chinese support in defusing inter-Korean tensions.

South and North Korea are still technically at war since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, in which China fought beside the Stalinist North against U.N. forces led by the United States.

Mr. Li, who arrived in Seoul Monday for a five-day visit with an 150-member entourage, hopes to strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

South Korea and China signed long-awaited agreements on aviation and nuclear energy.

South Korean Trade Minister Kim Chul-Su and Shi Wapeng, deputy director of the economic and trade office of China, signed an agreement to cooperate on the development of mid-sized civil aircraft. The aim is to build a prototype by 1998.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo and his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, finalised an aviation pact, allowing direct, regular services between the two countries.

The two ministers also signed an agreement to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and to comply with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) agreements.

During his visit, Mr. Li will visit factories run by three of South Korea's biggest companies, all of whom plan major investments in China.

Since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1992, economic relations have boomed.

China ranks South Korea as its sixth largest trading partner while China is Seoul's third largest.

China put bilateral trade at \$4.96 billion in the first half of 1994, up 59.5 per cent from the same 1993 period, while its trade with North Korea fell 21.9 per cent to just \$336 million.

Millions of dollars of new South Korean investment have poured into many parts of China, including big coastal cities, but especially the heavily ethnic Korean areas of northeast China's Jilin and Liaoning provinces, bordering North Korea.

The Korean ventures produce metal goods, textiles and many garments, non-ferrous metals, shoes and leather goods, many of them for export.

Mr. Li is to leave Seoul Wednesday for a visit to the Hyundai car factory in city of Ulsan and factories in Pusan. He completes his visit with a private trip to the southern island of Cheju, returning to China Friday.

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South Korean President Kim Young-Sam (right) greets Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng with a hand shake at the presidential Blue House in Seoul Monday. Mr. Li is in Seoul for a five-day official visit (AFP photo)

Kim Jong-Il reappears, prompting talk of N. Korean power transfer

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong-Il appeared in public at the weekend, signalling the start of the process of his formal elevation to the status of his late father, analysts said Monday.

Mr. Kim visited a newly renovated tomb to Tangun, mythical founder of Korea, the first time the state's de facto leader made an appearance not directly linked to the death of his father, "Great Leader" Kim Il-Sung.

The younger Kim has long been designated his father's successor but the world has yet to witness his succession to such key posts as Communist Party chief or state president.

Pyeongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Monday that "comrade Kim Jong-Il, the great leader of our party and people" inspected the recently reconstructed tomb of Tangun Saturday and gave detailed instructions to preserve it.

"Kim Jong-Il is making his first public step in his own political path but this does not mean he will become state president immediately," said Ko Tae-Woo, chief researcher at Seoul's Institute of North Korean Studies.

The secretive Kim had appeared in public on only two other occasions since his father died of a heart attack in early July — at Kim senior's funeral in a huge Pyongyang square and at a mass rally marking the 100th day of his death.

North Korea this month finished reconstruction work at the 4,000-year-old tomb for Tangun, revered as the founder of the Korean race.

According to legend, Tangun was conceived from the union of a bear and a God's son, consummated in a garlicked cave.

Yu Suk-Ryn, fellow at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, said Mr. Kim's tour coincided with meetings across North Korea where he gave a message of thanks to the people for mourning his father for over three months.

"Such meetings will be used to show public support for Kim Jong-Il and to promote him as the nation's undisputed leader," he said. "This will pave the way for him eventually to take over his father's political mantle."

KCNA reported Sunday that such meetings were held at the weekend at ministries, the army, Kim Il-Sung University, hospitals and factories.

Meanwhile, North Korea has expressed its readiness to resume talks with Japan, but not South Korea, following its nuclear accord with the United States, Japan's Asahi newspaper reported Monday.

A Korean-American journalist told Asahi after a visit to Pyongyang that she was told by a government source that rapprochement would depend on "willingness on Japan's side."

She said the source was close to North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong-Il.

Since the accord to help North Korea restructure its nuclear power programme with international assistance was signed on Oct. 21, Japan has been preparing for a resumption of talks with Pyongyang, which broke down in 1992.

At the same time, however, the source ruled out an immediate resumption of the inter-Korean dialogue unless South Korean President Kim Young-Sam changed his attitude, the newspaper quoted journalist Moon Myong-Ja as saying.



An artist works on a portrait of Cambodia's Penh in preparation for celebrations in honour of his 72nd birthday (AFP photo)

Cambodians search for hostages' graves

VINE MOUNTAIN, Cambodia (Agencies) — A team of Cambodian police commandos began searching to verify reports that three Western hostages had been murdered and buried, witnesses said.

Reuters correspondents saw 30 to 40 heavily-armed commandos carrying maps and radios preparing to start their search.

"The government has sent a search team to investigate a report giving the location of the graves of the hostages," said government spokesman Sieng Lapresse in Phnom Penh.

"They've reached the area where they (hostages) are supposed to be buried but they have been unable to begin searching because it has to be cleared of mines first," he added.

Briton Mark Slater, 28, Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, from France and David Wilson, 29, an Australian, were taken hostage by the Khmer Rouge on July 26 after a train ambush in southern Kampot province in which 13 people were killed.

No word of their fate has been received since a videotape and a letter were received in Phnom Penh on Sept. 2.

Senior Cambodian army officers have said the three Westerners are probably dead but the government denies this, saying there is no firm evidence.

A senior Khmer Rouge defector told Reuters Sunday the three Westerners were killed on the orders of a rebel general who then contrived a cover-up. "They were tied up and shot by AK-47. I've known this for a long time but (General Noun) Paet ordered my men to say they were sent to the border," he said.

The army last week seized Vine Mountain, where the hostages were held after being abducted, but there was no sign of the three or of Gen. Paet, the local Khmer Rouge commander.

The army believes Gen. Paet has escaped and headed west with a small bodyguard unit. "We are searching for Paet now — we've heard he's crossed Route Three but we're not sure," said army Captain Min Toch.

Capt. Toch commands a small squad of soldiers in Knach Prey Commune which comprises several hamlets including Gen. Paet's former main base where the Westerners were once held.

Asked about the fate of the hostages, the soldiers replied in unison: "Dead, dead — they're all dead."

Khmer Rouge guerrillas massacred 46 Cambodian villagers in the northwest province of Battambang after taking a group hostage last week, a provincial official said Monday.

Serey Kosal, the province vice-governor, said he met six men who had escaped from a guerrilla-held area in Bavel district.

"I met six men who came back on Oct. 29 — they said 46 were executed by the Khmer Rouge," Mr. Kosal told Reuters.

Mr. Kosal said 60 villagers who went into the jungle to cut bamboo ran into a Khmer Rouge unit. He said one of those who escaped had axe wounds to his head while other escapees had been shot in their hands and legs.

Meanwhile, Cambodians marked the 72nd birthday of King Norodom Sihanouk Monday while their ruler remained under medical care for cancer in Beijing.

IRA still on war footing — Protestants

BELFAST (AFP) — Despite two months of ceasefire, the Irish Republican Army remains on a war footing in Northern Ireland, policing neighbourhoods, simulating attacks, and continuing surveillance operations, Protestant parties say.

Adding weight to the claims, police in the British-administered province confirmed Monday they were probing incidents with paramilitary overtones in Londonderry.

According to witnesses who alerted police, armed and masked men who identified themselves as IRA members set up roadblocks Friday and Saturday in a Republican area of the eastern city, stopping cars and checking papers.

Police would not rule out Monday that the roadblocks were the work of pranksters to coincide with Halloween.

But such incidents echo others from the fledgling years of the sectarian conflict in the early 1970s, when entire sectors of Londonderry and Belfast were declared "no-go areas" to security forces by paramilitaries from both the Roman Catholic Republican and Protestant Loyalist communities.

Since it declared its truce on Sept. 1, the IRA has, through its political wing Sinn Fein, repeatedly called for the London-administered Royal Ulster Constabulary, which is more than 93 per cent Protestant, to be replaced by an "impartial" police force.

CIA backed anti-Sukarno forces — report

LOS ANGELES (R) — The U.S. government has acknowledged for the first time that it conducted major covert operations to counter Communist influence in Indonesia in the 1950s, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

The newspaper said that according to a 600-page account published by the State Department earlier this month, the administration of President Dwight Eisenhower secretly backed anti-Communist rebels opposed to President Sukarno.

The account is the latest in a series of histories of U.S. foreign policy published by the State Department, the paper said.

Quoting an interview with official State Department historian William Slany, who wrote the introduction to the new volume, it said the histories, titled "foreign relations of the United States," had previously been written without ever mentioning the existence of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

According to the Indonesia volume, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles concluded in 1958 that Gen. Sukarno was "untrustworthy" and "susceptible to the Communist way of thinking."

The CIA secretly began supplying and supporting anti-Communist military rebels on the outer Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Sulawesi at a time when the United States maintained normal diplomatic relations with Gen. Sukarno's government.

By 1959, when it was clear the rebellion would fail, the United States shifted its support to the Indonesian army, hoping the country's military leaders would counter Gen. Sukarno's purported Communist leanings.

The volume stops in 1960, and offers no evidence that the United States was involved in a 1965 coup that left Indonesia's current ruler, General Suharto, in power.

CIA operations in Indonesia first came to light after the country began complaining that it shot down and captured an American pilot, Allen Pope, who was bombing Indonesian military targets, the Los Angeles Times said. U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Howard Jones later wrote a book that acknowledged and criticised the CIA effort.

The candor of the State Department's Indonesia volume appears to be the result of a 1991 law passed by Congress requiring the CIA and other intelligence agencies to cooperate with State Department historians, the newspaper said.

Colombians vote amid rebel attacks

BOGOTA (R) — Colombians voted for more than 12,500 mayors, councillors and governors in relative peace Sunday despite a guerrilla attack on a police patrol and the burning of two buses.

Defence Minister Fernando Botero said the government was satisfied with the relative calm in which the elections were being held throughout the country.

"There have been a couple of unfortunate incidents... but the normal progress of elections has not been affected in any way," he told local radio.

Marxist guerrillas attacked a police patrol bringing polling booths to a town in central Risaralda province. Three police officers and three civilians were wounded.

Guerrillas also set fire to a bus in northern Cesar province and another in the middle Magdalena River Valley.

More than 250,000 police and soldiers are supervising the elections in towns and cities throughout the country as more than 17 million eligible voters go to the polls.

Mozambique's Chissano appeals for post-poll calm

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano appealed Monday for calm as unofficial results trickled in from the country's first elections since the end of a 16-year civil war.

A fraction of the 7,500 polling stations, mainly in the south dominated by Mr. Chissano's ruling FRELIMO party, showed the president and his party well ahead of former rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama and his RENAMO.

But final results are not expected for two weeks, and analysts stressed it was far too early to predict a solid trend, especially in the country's north and centre where RENAMO has traditionally commanded support.

Mr. Chissano, in a front-page interview with the state-run Noticias newspaper, urged the nation to remain calm.

"I appeal to the public not to let yourselves be carried away by speculation which might lead to discouragement or to fears about your safety," he said.

While the elections passed relatively peacefully, diplomats and analysts have given warning that the potential for instability is large in this impoverished country as it tries to heal the wounds of civil war.

RENAMO fought the FRELIMO government for 16 years following Mozambique's independence from Portugal in 1975, and Mr. Dhlakama caused consternation when he called for a boycott of the election just as voting was about to start last Thursday.

Mr. Dhlakama, who said that the elections were rigged, later lifted the boycott after pressure from Mozambique's southern African neighbours.

A survey by journalists of results posted on the doors of 75 polling stations in the capital Maputo, Maputo province and Vampula City gave Mr. Chissano 43,416 votes and Mr. Dhlakama 5,981 in the presidential race.

In the contest for the 250-seat parliament, FRELIMO had 40,409 votes and RENAMO (Mozambican National Resistance) 5,848.

The other 10 presidential candidates and 12 parties or coalitions that took part had won barely any votes.

India wants Kashmir polls as soon as possible

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government said Monday it wanted to hold elections in troubled Kashmir as soon as possible and dismissed suggestions that international observers were needed to ensure fair polling.

"We are very keen that elections should be held in the Jammu and Kashmir area as soon as possible," Home (Interior) Minister Shankar Rao Chavan told a news conference.

More than 17,000 people have died in the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir since a separatist rebellion broke out five years ago. Opponents to Indian rule want either independence or union with neighbouring Pakistan.

For the past four and a half years the Indian central government has exercised direct rule over the state, which includes the Kashmir Valley.

Mr. Chavan did not say whether elections would be held in Jammu and Kashmir before a six-month extension of direct rule expires next March. An aide to the minister said the government wanted to hold elections in the state within the next year.

Kashmir separatists claim residents would boycott any elections and say there is bureaucratic resistance within the state to organising the polls.

Mr. Chavan played down the possibility that militant violence would disrupt assembly elections. "The conditions are definitely very conducive for holding the elections in that area," he said. "My feedback is that we can hold the elections all right."

The minister said threats of violence had kept some people away from elections in the northwestern state of Punjab in 1992 but they went ahead without any major hitches despite a decade-long secessionist movement.

"We can't possibly not hold the elections merely because one political party says, 'we don't want to take part in the elections,'" he said. "The elections will be held."

Mr. Chavan brushed aside a suggestion that international observers would be needed to monitor any polls.

"There is no question of having any international observers at all," he said. "Our election commission is quite competent and will be able to ensure free and fair elections."

Mr. Chavan minimised differences with Junior Home Minister Rajesh Pilot, who recently suggested the state should be granted more autonomy before proceeding with elections.

Asked whether he agreed with Mr. Pilot, Mr. Chavan said the cabinet had not taken a decision on the matter of autonomy.

Meanwhile, the Kashmir dispute could cloud Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's upcoming visit to France after Paris urged her government to seek a solution through direct talks with India.

The Nov. 2-5 visit was originally intended to pack up investment deals between Pakistan and France.

But days before her visit France backed direct Indo-Pakistani talks on Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, where a bloody campaign is being waged by separatist rebels who enjoy political support from predominantly Muslim Pakistan.

The French call runs counter to Ms. Bhutto's oft-repeated stand that the issue can only be resolved through strong international pressure on New Delhi, and not in a bilateral framework.

Since Ms. Bhutto came to power in October 1993, she has never missed any opportunity to tell foreign officials of her stance on Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir. New Delhi accuses Islamabad, which controls the northern third of Kashmir, of arming the rebels.

More than 10,000 people have died in Kashmir violence since 1989 when the Muslim separatist campaign gained momentum in the Himalayan region.

At least 22 people were killed this weekend in Kashmir as a protest strike against last week's slaying of a Muslim rebel leader by Indian troops paralysed life in the northern Indian valley, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

During her visit to France, Ms. Bhutto is scheduled to meet with President Francois Mitterrand, who visited Pakistan in 1990, as well as Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac and several ministers.

Apart from Kashmir, Ms. Bhutto's French agenda includes Bosnia and conflicts in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, according to diplomatic sources.

Ms. Bhutto, to be accompanied by Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali and Defence Minister Atab Shaban Mirani, is expected to raise the possibility of acquiring 40 French-made Mirage 2000-5 fighters, which has been under discussion for more than two years but has been stalled by financing problems.

Ms. Bhutto is also expected to raise the question of a nuclear power plant which Mr. Mitterrand, in his 1990 visit, had promised to deliver to Pakistan.

Since then France has demanded a condition for the sale: Pakistan must first sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But Pakistan refuses to do so unless India also adheres to the pact.

Kohl to have knee operation

BONN (AFP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl is to have a knee operation in the next few weeks, one of his aides said Monday. He said that the burly chancellor's busy schedule — an election campaign followed by current negotiations to renew his centre-right coalition — had so far not allowed him the time. Mr. Kohl, who weighs around 130 kilograms (286 pounds), was said to suffer a pain in the knee if he had to stand any length of time.

Asteroids crash on Earth — TV hoax draws complaints

NEW YORK (R) — A fictional news broadcast showing gigantic asteroids crashing landing on Earth took Americans by surprise Sunday, with TV viewers jamming CBS switchboards to find out if their world was coming to an end. "The calls are coming in. They want to know if it's real," said Rob Feiner, an editing supervisor at the network's New York affiliate. Entitled Without Warning, the programme attributed fictional reports of global disaster to news outlets such as Reuters and the Associated Press and showed scenes of panic and death on the ground, massive tie-ups of the skies above the United States and the collapse of the world's stock markets. The broadcast was shown a day before the spooky Halloween holiday, and appeared inspired by Orson Welles' famous Oct. 30, 1938, radio dramatisation of H.G. Wells' War of the Worlds, which sent hundreds of Americans into a panic with its portrayal of a Martian invasion of Earth. Switchboards were jammed Sunday at the CBS network as the television production, hosted by veteran newsmen Sander Vabour, showed "live" reports from disaster sites in Europe, Asia and the United States. CBS spokesman Tom Goodman said the network had acted responsibly by airing frequent disclaimers. But others at the network said they may not have been sufficient warning and that they were unsure whether the reports of global disaster and nuclear holocaust were true.

'Monster of Florence' suspect proclaims innocence

FLORENCE, Italy (AFP) — The 73-year-old man accused of being the "Monster of Florence" who killed 16 young people in the Tuscan countryside between 1968 and 1985, claimed his innocence and appealed for clemency as his trial ended here Saturday. Pietro Pacciani told the court tearfully that he was as "innocent as Christ on the cross" as the jury prepared to adjourn to deliberate the verdict, which is not expected before Tuesday or Wednesday. The elderly Tuscan peasant produced a statuette of a saint from his pocket and cried out: "Believe me, I have not done all this evil. A peasant who works the land does not even have the time to tie his shoelaces. Show patience, Mr. President, because I am innocent and have a broken heart." As the trial drew to a close, addresses by the defence and prosecuting attorneys showed a gulf between those who were convinced of Pacciani's guilt and those who believed he had been made a scapegoat. The prosecutor's final address stressed contradictions in statements the Italian farmer made regarding his work during the time of the last double murder in 1985, when a French tourist couple, Nadine Mauriot and Jean-Michel Kravtchevich, were killed. Prosecutor Paolo Canessa said that "the trial has shown that there exist a great number of indications, all bad, precise and concordant, the lead to the conclusion that Pacciani was the author of these crimes." Defence attorney Rosario Bevacqua said on the other hand that there was "not a single proof, only artificial evidence, unreliable testimony and inconsistent clues," and said Mr. Pacciani was "neither strong enough nor intelligent enough" to carry out the killings. Over a period of 17 years, seven couples visiting the Mugello countryside were killed by a prowler armed with a Baretta handgun. Two young German campers were also killed. Mr. Pacciani was arrested in 1991.

Aristide

A Haitian... (text is partially obscured and illegible)

EU begins

... (text is partially obscured and illegible)

Tamil king

... (text is partially obscured and illegible)

Kohl to have knee operation

Asteroids crash on Earth — TV hoax draws complaints



A Haitian girl collect sea water on the shore of the slum area of Cite Soleil in Port-au-Prince. The sea water is used by the

tens of thousands of Cite Soleil residents to wash laundry (AFP photo)

Aristide supporters look for work

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Jean-Robert Charles, who went into hiding when Haiti was under military rule, has returned walking the streets without fear since President Jean-Bertrand Aristide came home on Oct. 15.

But he and other Aristide supporters who have been in hiding said Sunday they face a new problem — making a living.

"I have no place to stay, I'm living everywhere," said Charles, who fled Port-Au-Prince in April 1993 and returned after Mr. Aristide came back. "I have no money to rent a house."

The arrival in the past five weeks of over 10,000 U.S. troops on a mission to restore democracy has greatly improved security, especially in Port-Au-Prince, where the troops are concentrated.

But some Aristide backers have not returned to their homes in scattered rural areas because armed thugs still hold sway, according to aid workers. Pro-Democracy activists fear revenge attacks by members of the old regime.

"It gives the appearance of being very quiet, but there are still pockets of violence and people are still being

harassed," said Sister Ellen Flynn of Hospice St. Joseph in Port-Au-Prince, which offered shelter to fugitives under military rule.

Mr. Aristide returned three years after being ousted by a coup. At least 3,000 civilians were killed by military-backed police and paramilitary gunmen during military rule.

Members of paramilitary groups are believed still to have hundreds of weapons, and there are reports of violence in the countryside where local authority is virtually non-existent.

"There's too many big

guns hidden out there," said Carla Blumtschil, member of Christian peacemaker teams, a Chicago-based charity. "There's no way they're going to be able to get them all."

Mr. Aristide has tried to assure his people that Haiti is a safer place and urged those who fled the country to come home. About 300,000 people were believed to have gone underground during three years under the military.

For many, the new challenge is finding employment in the impoverished Caribbean nation.

Some members of Lavalas, Mr. Aristide's political party, said the top party members are finding work more easily than the president's rank-and-file supporters.

"My problem now is a job and money," said Belizaire Joelle, 37, a grass roots organizer for Lavalas. "I'm not going to sit here. I'm going to walk around and check with people to find work."

Jasmine Pierre, a 29-year-old Aristide activist whose husband was abducted by gunmen in 1991 and is still missing, says she is not afraid to be coming out of hiding. Her only priority is to get a job to feed her three children.

"If I'm working, then I will forget about the past," she said.



U.S. soldiers walk down one of Port-Au-Prince main arteries during a routine patrol. Security in the Haitian capital is assured by multinational armed forces as a new Haitian police

force is receiving training under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Justice (AFP photo)

EU begins planning for former Communist members

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Foreign Ministers from six former Communist states of eastern Europe met their European Union (EU) counterparts Monday to lay the groundwork for their future membership of the Western bloc.

"This is the first step in the scheme for integration. It is a very important day," Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Malescu said on arrival for the meeting.

Poland, Hungary, Romania, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Slovakia are keen to join Western institutions such as the EU and NATO as soon as possible, irrevocably distancing themselves from their former Soviet ties.

Driven on by Germany, which is keen to secure stability to its east, the EU has

turned over almost an entire regular foreign ministers' meeting to discuss actions that can be taken now to ease membership for the six.

"The path is marked out," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said in welcoming remarks to the easterners. He warned, however, that there were plenty of challenges along the way.

"You must make your respective countries capable of (membership) and we must make the European Union capable of receiving you," he said.

Monday's meeting, the first of its kind at such a high level, was to touch on issues ranging from attitudes to the war in former Yugoslavia to the harmonisation of standards.

Although both sides are

agreed on the need to bring the East in to the Union, differences exist over timing and the process.

Poland indicated last week it did not want to begin preparing itself for the EU's single market until it had been given an exact date for joining.

"Until at least an indicative calendar for acquiring membership is drawn up or (formal) negotiations on membership get started, the lack of a time frame for completing those tasks will remain a serious impediment," a Polish Foreign Ministry paper noted on Oct. 24.

Hungary, meanwhile, has said it wants to join by the end of the century and has argued against the East being treated as a single bloc that must join in one move.

Within the EU itself, meanwhile, a battle is brewing over the German-led emphasis on eastwards enlargement. France and Spain, in particular, fear a shift in balance within the EU towards the north.

They have argued that eastwards enlargement should be matched by more aggressive Mediterranean policy. This was outlined by the EU ministers Monday, calling for a doubling of aid to non-EU Mediterranean countries in preparation for a free trade zone.

The EU spent the equivalent of \$2.07 billion on the Mediterranean in the four years to 1994. At the same time it spent the equivalent of \$4.82 billion on Eastern Europe.

Tamil king-maker joins Sri Lankan cabinet

COLOMBO (AFP) — A minority Tamil leader with a decisive vote bank Monday announced that he was joining the government of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga ahead of next month's presidential elections.

S. Thondaman, a former minister who leads the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC) trade union, will be the minister of tourism, a portfolio he held under the previous United National Party (UNP) regime.

"Yes, I will be taking up the Ministry of Tourism. The ceremony will take place either tonight or tomorrow," Mr. Thondaman said. His CWC has a membership of nearly half a million plantation workers.

The shift would boost Mrs. Kumaratunga's votes and help widen the gap between her and the main opposition candidate Srimala Disanayake, the widow of slain opposition leader Gamini Disanayake, political analyst said.

Mr. Thondaman had for over 17 years supported Mrs. Kumaratunga's rival UNP and his defection was seen here as a serious blow to the faction-ridden opposition, now led by former Premier Ranil Wickremesinghe.

With the Sinhalese majority divided almost equally between the UNP and the PA, the block vote of Mr.

Thondaman is considered crucial because the winner at presidential polls must receive a clear 50 per cent of the ballots.

Sri Lanka's opposition Monday invited two top Indian experts to probe the slaying of its leader and presidential candidate, Gamini Disanayake, as a "battle of the widows" got underway with a smear campaign.

Widow Srimala Disanayake who is now challenging Mrs. Kumaratunga — herself a widow — in the Nov. 9 presidential elections named two Indians to join a government investigation into Monday's assassination.

Mrs. Disanayake, in a letter to Mrs. Kumaratunga, named D.R. Karthikeyan, joint director of India's Central Bureau of Investigations and forensic scientist Professor P. Chandrasekaran. The pair helped probe the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"I have every reason to believe that they could make a valuable contribution to the present investigation, especially in view of their extensive previous experience in matters such as this," Mrs. Disanayake said.

Premier Kumaratunga had offered to invite any experts the Disanayake family wanted to probe last Monday's bombing of his pres-

idential election campaign that also killed 56 others.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's People's Alliance (PA) as well as Mrs. Disanayake's United National Party (UNP) Monday resumed politicking by trading allegations of violence, intimidation and character assassination.

Justice Minister G.L. Peiris said the UNP was issuing leaflets saying Premier Kumaratunga employed separatist Tamil Tigers rebels to kill Mr. Disanayake and that her visit earlier this month to Singapore was to "fix up things."

"Very undignified remarks have been made about the prime minister at the funeral (Saturday). Offensive language has been used... This is a total violation of election law," Mr. Peiris said.

UNP legislator Sarath Amunugama hit back saying that their supporters were being assaulted by the government for putting up white flags to mourn the death of Mr. Disanayake and their advertisements were being censored.

"Our people are being hammered by goon squads, led by government MPs. This is a violation of their freedom to express sorrow," Mr. Amunugama told reporters here Monday while announcing the relaunch of their campaign.

Mr. Disanayake's UNP

has accused the LTTE of carrying out Monday's suicide bombing, but Mrs. Kumaratunga said it could be the result of a "plain and simple feud" within the opposition and an inside job by the UNP to gain in the short term.

The UNP Monday showed a video clip taken 10 days earlier at another rally of Mr. Disanayake clearly showing a woman, almost identical to the suicide bomber, sitting in the audience, apparently carrying out a trial run for the assassination.

A family member said they handed the video to the National Intelligence Bureau and the Criminal Investigations Department and it was also shown to surgeon Narendran Wijemanne who confirmed it was the same woman who killed Mr. Disanayake.

Members of the Tigers have denied involvement but defence and military authorities are convinced that only the LTTE, which is fighting for independence, have deadly suicide bombers in the region.

Mrs. Kumaratunga went on national television Sunday night, accusing the UNP of fostering a culture of violence in politics and said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were allowed to flourish under the UNP's 17-year rule.

Croatia Serbs intervene in Bosnia; Serbs fire at Sarajevo suburb

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Croatian Serbs shelled a Muslim-held area of north-western Bosnia and sniped at troops on the border to relieve pressure on their Serb brethren facing an offensive by the mainly Muslim army, U.N. sources said Monday.

Government forces Monday pursued their offensive on the western front and have now taken 250 square kilometres (100 square miles) of territory in their biggest success against the Bosnian Serbs since the beginning of the war 30 months ago, said a U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman here.

However, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said the assault had been halted. "Muslim activities have been stopped and conditions have been met to pursue tasks related to the state of war," Mr. Karadzic said at a meeting with Bosnian Serb military leaders in the north-western town of Bosanski Petrovac, the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) reported.

UNPROFOR also Monday accused the Serbs of twice shelling civilian targets in a Sarajevo suburb at the weekend, adding that it was ready to take "appropriate strong military action," including air strikes.

In northwestern Bosnia, 21 artillery rounds, fired from the secessionist Serb-held Krajina enclave, just across the border in Croatia, fell near Veluka Kladusa overnight, Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer said here.

In Zagreb, a U.N. source said separatist Croatian Serb troops were massing along the eastern border with Bosnia. Unconfirmed reports said they were also mustering tanks and armoured vehicles as fighting continued Monday to the south and northeast of Bihac enclave.

More than 10,000 Serb civilians have fled, according to local authorities, thousands of them to Bosanski Petrovac.

Croatian military experts believe the Krajina Serbs, who control a quarter of Croatia, have an 87,000-strong army. The only point of entry from Croatia into Bihac has been closed to the U.N. since Friday, according to U.N. officials.

This is not the first time Croatian Serbs have intervened in the Bosnian conflict.

Earlier this year, they shelled government positions in support of a secession bid by a maverick Muslim regional leader whose military campaign against Sarajevo has since been crushed.

Elsewhere on the western front, the confrontation line continued to move southwards and has now reached the vicinity of Kulen Vakuf, also on the Croatian border.

In the northeast, a sudden increase in machine gun and small arms fire Monday at dawn "seems to imply that infantry action is taking place in the town" of Bosanska Krupa, he said.

Meanwhile, in the Sarajevo sector, fighting continued Monday east of the Mount Igman demilitarised zone (DMZ) after government forces had captured high ground from which they can bombard a Serb-controlled main road.

When the offensive began Saturday, Serb forces appeared to have retreated without much of a fight, but on Sunday two multiple-barrel rocket launchers were brought up against the Muslims and resistance stiffened.

It was not immediately clear whether Muslim forces would withdraw Monday from the Igman DMZ as has been repeatedly promised.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serbs Sunday shelled the Sarajevo suburb of Hrasnica for the second straight day, killing two civilians and wounding seven, Col. Spicer said, despite a strong protest the U.N. sent to them following the first incident.

The Muslim-held village of Hrasnica, near the airport, is included in the Sarajevo U.N.-declared safe area which the Security Council has pledged to defend from shelling.

UNPROFOR, which believed heavy mortars were used, as prepared to "take appropriate military action" if the weapons were detected, Col. Spicer said.

"Air strikes are one option, but not necessarily the first," he added.

"Other weapon systems might be more appropriate" to strike at mortars often fired from built-up areas and then speedily dismantled and hidden, he added.

The Bosnian Serbs Friday warned they would start attacking civilian centres such as Sarajevo and Bihac town if the army did not call off its latest offensive.

U.N. experts said international sanctions against the Serbs, particularly a fuel embargo, appeared to be starting to bite.

Mr. Karadzic Sunday vowed his forces would turn back the Muslim-led govern-

ment troops who have scored unprecedented gains in an offensive over the past week.

Mr. Karadzic told a crowd of some 1,000 people in Bosanski Petrovac that the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) would launch a counter-attack that would stifle the Muslim offensive.

The Bosnian Serb political leader appeared in public for the first time in a military uniform, which the crowd applauded.

"I was hoping that I'll never have to wear a war uniform. But our enemy does not want peace. They want war and if they want war, they'll have it," Mr. Karadzic said in front of the town hall.

Local authorities said the crowd was made up of refugees who were forced to flee in the face of the Bosnian government army thrust out of the northwest Bihac enclave.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government army has forced Serbs off conquered territory over the past several days east and south of the Muslim enclave of Bihac, which had been encircled by Serb troops since the early days of the conflict.

The Bosnian Serbs, who control about 70 per cent of Bosnia after 30 months of war, have rejected an international peace plan that would divide up the former Yugoslav republic roughly in half between Serbs and a Muslim-Croat federation.

Mr. Karadzic said Serbs would refuse to make territorial concessions. "There can be no bargaining about Serb territories. There can be no retreat or territorial concessions if they opted for a military solution to this crisis."

Residents of the Macedonian capital light candles in a city park to protest the irregularities which occurred during the first round of

vote, as Macedonians go to the polls for the second round of general elections despite opposition calls for a poll boycott (AFP photo)

Angola peace talks 'risk collapse'

LUANDA (AFP) — Government and UNITA delegates warned Monday that marathon peace talks were in danger of collapsing, as a U.N. deadline for the end of the negotiations passed amid reports of renewed heavy fighting between the two sides.

At the scheduled end of the 11-month-long talks in the Zambian capital Lusaka, set for Monday by U.N. special representative Alimou Blondin Beye, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) said the peace process "was in danger of coming off the rails."

According to the rebels' Radio Vorgan monitored in Luanda, UNITA accused Angolan authorities of trying to "decapitate" the movement by military means by "setting traps" for its fighters.

Meanwhile, the pro-government press noted that the talks were "in danger."

"There has been no progress in the final phase of discussions, which offers no guarantee" that the Lusaka protocol for a peace accord will be approved, the Journal de Angola said Monday.

The government and UNITA delegations were each waiting for the other to "soften its stance," the newspaper said, while national radio added that the gap between the two sides had widened.

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It was not immediately clear whether Muslim forces would withdraw Monday from the Igman DMZ as has been repeatedly promised.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serbs Sunday shelled the Sarajevo suburb of Hrasnica for the second straight day, killing two civilians and wounding seven, Col. Spicer said, despite a strong protest the U.N. sent to them following the first incident.

The Muslim-held village of Hrasnica, near the airport, is included in the Sarajevo U.N.-declared safe area which the Security Council has pledged to defend from shelling.

UNPROFOR, which believed heavy mortars were used, as prepared to "take appropriate military action" if the weapons were detected, Col. Spicer said.

"Air strikes are one option, but not necessarily the first," he added.

"Other weapon systems might be more appropriate" to strike at mortars often fired from built-up areas and then speedily dismantled and hidden, he added.

The Bosnian Serbs Friday warned they would start attacking civilian centres such as Sarajevo and Bihac town if the army did not call off its latest offensive.

U.N. experts said international sanctions against the Serbs, particularly a fuel embargo, appeared to be starting to bite.

Mr. Karadzic Sunday vowed his forces would turn back the Muslim-led govern-

ment troops who have scored unprecedented gains in an offensive over the past week.

Mr. Karadzic told a crowd of some 1,000 people in Bosanski Petrovac that the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) would launch a counter-attack that would stifle the Muslim offensive.

The Bosnian Serb political leader appeared in public for the first time in a military uniform, which the crowd applauded.

"I was hoping that I'll never have to wear a war uniform. But our enemy does not want peace. They want war and if they want war, they'll have it," Mr. Karadzic said in front of the town hall.

Local authorities said the crowd was made up of refugees who were forced to flee in the face of the Bosnian government army thrust out of the northwest Bihac enclave.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government army has forced Serbs off conquered territory over the past several days east and south of the Muslim enclave of Bihac, which had been encircled by Serb troops since the early days of the conflict.

The Bosnian Serbs, who control about 70 per cent of Bosnia after 30 months of war, have rejected an international peace plan that would divide up the former Yugoslav republic roughly in half between Serbs and a Muslim-Croat federation.

Mr. Karadzic said Serbs would refuse to make territorial concessions. "There can be no bargaining about Serb territories. There can be no retreat or territorial concessions if they opted for a military solution to this crisis."

Residents of the Macedonian capital light candles in a city park to protest the irregularities which occurred during the first round of

vote, as Macedonians go to the polls for the second round of general elections despite opposition calls for a poll boycott (AFP photo)

Ruling coalition wins Macedonia election

SKOPIE (AFP) — Macedonia's governing left-of-centre coalition won a large majority in the second round of legislative elections, a news report said Monday.

According to estimates broadcast by independent television network Al, the Alliance for Macedonia won 85 of 110 seats up for grabs in Sunday's polling, which was marred by an opposition boycott call.

Added to the eight seats it won in the first round on Oct. 16, the results would, if confirmed, give the coalition 93 of the 120 seats in the former Yugoslav republic's single-chamber parliament.

In second place with a total of eight seats over the two rounds was the Democratic Prosperity Party, which represents Macedonia's ethnic Albanian community, the television said.

There was no official confirmation of the breakdown from the country's electoral commission.

Al had no details on returns for the nationalist VMRO-DPMNE, the main opposition party.

The VMRO-UPMNE and the centrist Democratic Party (DP) had called Friday for a boycott, charging that the first round had been invalidated by irregularities, and organised an alternative vote in Skopje and other large cities.

Source close to the DP said

around 25,000 supporters had taken part in the protest vote Sunday.

However the main poll proceeded calmly. Electoral Commission official Simeon Nikodievski said, citing only "a few incidents."

Polling stations were monitored Sunday by some 750 international observers.

Outgoing head of state Kiro Gligorov, a former Communist leader backed by the Alliance for Macedonia, won an absolute majority — 52.4 per cent — in the first round of presidential polls, also held Oct. 16, against 14.4 per cent for VMRO-DPMNE candidate Ljubisa Georgijevski.

According to the poll by the private television station NTV, Mr. Yeltsin's popularity has slipped gradually from 25 per cent in January.

Over the same period, the number of people dissatisfied with him has jumped from 46 to 61 per cent.

In another NTV poll, some 35 per cent of Russians said they wanted Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's government to leave power, with only nine per cent supporting it. The remainder said they wanted one or more ministers to leave or had no opinion.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, who survived a parliamentary vote of no confidence last week, on Sunday ruled out any major purge of reformers in his government.

He said in an interview on NTV that there could be some minor changes in the cabinet. A new finance minister would be appointed in the coming week to take over from Acting Minister Andrei Vavilov.

But, in reply to a question, he denied that Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais and Alexander Shokhin or Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev could be dropped.

Angola peace talks 'risk collapse'

LUANDA (AFP) — Government and UNITA delegates warned Monday that marathon peace talks were in danger of collapsing, as a U.N. deadline for the end of the negotiations passed amid reports of renewed heavy fighting between the two sides.

At the scheduled end of the 11-month-long talks in the Zambian capital Lusaka, set for Monday by U.N. special representative Alimou Blondin Beye, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) said the peace process "was in danger of coming off the rails."

According to the rebels' Radio Vorgan monitored in Luanda, UNITA accused Angolan authorities of trying to "decapitate" the movement by military means by "setting traps" for its fighters.

Meanwhile, the pro-government press noted that the talks were "in danger."

"There has been no progress in the final phase of discussions, which offers no guarantee" that the Lusaka protocol for a peace accord will be approved, the Journal de Angola said Monday.

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Jordan Times

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Late step answers nothing

THE AGREEMENT between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to relax the border crossing from the Palestinian territories to Israel is a positive development but it may have come a bit too late for thousands of Palestinian labourers. Mr. Rabin made this conciliatory gesture during the opening session of the Casablanca conference on economic development for the Middle East and North Africa in a bid to improve the prospects for the economic development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The hangup in this seemingly positive step by Israel is the fact that the Israeli government has taken what Rabin called a strategic decision to replace Palestinian workers with foreign labourers. The number of people contracted by Israel to come to the country for work in place of Palestinian workers is not known. Conservative estimates put the number at several thousand. This means that even when Palestinians are able to cross into Israel they are likely to find their positions filled by others. Be that as it may, the Palestinians cannot count forever on employment opportunities in Israel. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will have to revamp its economic policies either by creating job opportunities within the Palestinian territories or by linking the economy of these territories with its Arab neighbours. As a long-term policy, the PNA will have to make a choice between putting all its eggs in the Israeli basket or reestablish its traditional links with the Arab World. It should be clear by now that the PNA relationship with its Arab neighbours is not exactly what it should be. Egypt is too far removed from the Palestinian territories to make much difference. There is hardly any trade if at all with Syria or Lebanon. As for the relationship with Jordan, we all agree there is more to be desired especially after Arafat apparently opted to connect with Israel rather than with Jordan on economic and financial issues. This calls for real statesmanship on the part of the Palestinian leadership, something that has yet to manifest itself in relation to Amman. Meanwhile Palestinian workers will have to suffer economically and pay the price of ill-conceived economic and political policies. Most probably extremist forces will be the sole beneficiaries of this state of affairs. It is doubtful that the Casablanca conferees would be able on their own to solve the economic woes of the Palestinians. As long as the structuring of the economic development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is leaning in the wrong direction, no amount of investment whether induced by the international community or otherwise would be able to address the problem.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MIDDLE East and North Africa economic conference in Casablanca should be remembered as the event that marked the advent of the new Middle East order and one that declares the end of the Arab League, said Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour daily Monday. Indeed, when the Arab League marks its 50th anniversary next March it will appear to the Arabs an aged institution that has become devoid of any meaning, said the writer. The Casablanca meeting, he said, will herald the end of the Arab countries boycott of Israel and is bound to lay the foundation stone for Israel's official economic and geographic existence within the Arab World and in the Middle East region.

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai daily criticised Parliament members who chose to boycott an address to Parliament by U.S. President Bill Clinton in the past weeks saying that they lost the chance to present their own views to him and the world at large. Of course, by absenting themselves from the session, these deputies were trying to display their opposition to the peace treaty with Israel, but it was a negative move not in the interest of all the opponents of all the peace treaty, said Hazem Mubayyeddin. The writer said that Jordanian voters had elected these deputies to speak for them in Parliament and express their views; but they disappointed these voters by refusing to confront the U.S. President with the people's demands, he added. Furthermore, reports or rumours about deputies threatening to resign from Parliament bring further disappointments to the public since resignation means abandoning the electorate and allowing the House to remain passive with no voice to express opposition, said the writer. He said that the government has pledged to listen to the opposition and it is everybody's interest to retain this opposition in the democratic system.

Open letter to Arafat

Closure of An Nahar is blow to freedom

By Bassam Eid

WITHOUT THE freedom to express one's opinion, there can be no human dignity. If this freedom is not respected, fundamental rights are violated. The recent decision by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to ban distribution of the newspaper "An Nahar" in the territories under Palestinian authority is a serious violation of human rights and a blow for the chances of democracy in a future Palestinian state. This decision is all the more worrying since, in our modern society, the press plays a vital role in the fight for human rights.

We still are unsure of the reasons for banning "An Nahar." From the roof-top terrace of his official residence, Chairman Arafat can survey the whole of Gaza City. This is an administrative problem according to him, to be solved once An Nahar is granted a distribution licence. On the other side of the mountains, in the city of Jericho, Jibril Rajoub, head of Palestinian security, claims that An Nahar will never again be allowed to be published. In between the two men is Yasser Abed Rabbo, Palestinian minister for communications. Mr. Abed Rabbo uses meaningless words to quieten things down and claims not to have been consulted about

the ban. Other people involved in this tragic incident: Nabil Shaath, who half-heartedly criticised his boss's decision and Nabil Abu Radda, Mr. Arafat's advisor on media matters, who says that An Nahar is not a "real" newspaper, whatever that means.

I should like to ask you the following question: might it be that the various problems of the self-governing Palestinian territories have been solved and that the only remaining problem is this administrative one concerning granting a permit to the An Nahar newspaper?

A few days ago I was violently criticised after an interview I gave on the radio during which I said that international aid for the Palestinian authorities should be suspended until An Nahar was allowed to be distributed once more. My critics replied that thousands of hungry Gazans would suffer from any such suspension. If, Mr. Chairman, you are really concerned about all else with the well-being of Palestinians, would it not be better to authorise the redistribution of the newspaper? After all, this newspaper allows dozens of Palestinian families to earn a living and those working for it have been laid off. I have a second question: Why must An Nahar have a permit to appear in Jer-

salem when other newspapers, Palestinian and Israeli alike, do not?

To be frank, this ban came as no surprise to me. What did astonish me, though, was the speed with which you have acted. The ban was imposed only a fortnight after you arrived in Gaza. Fast work. I am equally certain that nobody will persuade you to reverse your decision.

I do not know whether the Palestinian people, at this stage of awakening of their nation, is aware of the importance of a free and independent press. I cannot understand why the daily Al Quds has kept quiet about the ban on An Nahar. Perhaps Al Quds has never got over the rivalry between the two publications since An Nahar first appeared in 1987? If it is interested in maintaining a free and independent Palestinian press, Al Quds should have protested about the ban on An Nahar.

I have not yet heard anything out of the Palestinian human rights defence organisations on this subject and I find their silence shocking. I ask them this question: For how much longer will you keep this immoral silence? International associations have already found the time to protest, but you have said nothing. How can that be explained? Like you, the Association of Palestinian Journalists has

said nothing. When I called to find out why they were silent, I was told that the association ceased to be existed a year ago.

The ban on An Nahar is a taste of things to come — we should expect other violations of our rights. It is clear that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to list every violation of human rights and protest against them if we are deprived of an independent press open to all those wishing to express themselves freely, without feeling the threat of a sword of Damocles of repression hanging over them.

Editorials in the European press have condemned the ban on An Nahar. The question some of them raise seems rather naive: "Is this the new era we heard so much about?" I do not think that such public statements are very effective. I do not believe that grassroots work is that powerful. I doubt that European editorials can influence our leaders.

If this is indeed the new era we were promised, please note that I am one of those Palestinians who enters it reluctantly, dragging my feet.

The writer is a Palestinian journalist and human rights activist. The letter is reprinted from a newsletter published by Reporters Sans Frontiers.

India: an accelerating economy with plenty of room for growth

By James K. Glassman

WASHINGTON — The 1989 revolution that razed the Berlin Wall seems to have had more profound economic effects outside Russia and Eastern Europe than inside. Capitalism and free markets are suddenly taking hold in China, Vietnam, Latin America and, perhaps most promisingly of all, India.

In 1991, India's economy hit a brick wall. Protectionist policies that had limited imports and exports were precipitating a disaster. The prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, had few choices, so he cut taxes and opened India up to foreign trade and capital.

Today, despite poverty, financial scandals and political violence, India's growth is accelerating, and it is attracting money from abroad. U.S. companies invested more in India in 1992 and 1993 alone than they had in the previous 40 years. Ford, which now sells no cars in India, last week announced a joint venture with Mahindra & Mahindra and will begin manufacturing soon.

India is now the third-largest economy in Asia and the 12th in the world. But more important is its potential for further growth with its 900 million people, 150 million of them middle-class and well educated. Some 25 million Indians own stocks, and despite the stifling bureaucracy entrepreneurship has deep roots.

Released from government restrictions, Indians are showing that they can innovate like crazy. A good example is cable television, which is completely unregulated. As a result, Bloomberg Business News reports, there are now 60,000 independent cable operators delivering 15 channels, of programming to 10 million Indians using wires strung hastily between apartment blocks.

Foreigners still cannot buy stocks directly in India, but it is now easy to bet on the country's prosperity through mutual funds. One closed-end fund, India Growth, was started in 1988 and has returned an average of 19 per cent annually since then.

Three more closed-end funds and one open-end fund were launched this year, and their managers have lots of choices. The Bombay Stock Exchange, founded in 1875, lists 3,263 companies — 50 per cent more than the New York Stock Exchange. And India has 21 other exchanges with an additional 4,000 listed companies.

More shares are coming to market all the time. This week the government completed the sale to the public of minority interests in seven state-owned companies, including Indian Oil Corporation, which refines most of the country's oil and is one of the 500 largest firms of any sort in the world.

One hot stock owned by

all five of the U.S. mutual funds that specialise in India is Reliance Industries, a petrochemical company that is one of the world's 10 largest makers of polyester. Last week, Reliance announced that profits for the first half of 1994 had risen 146 per cent, to \$163 million. Its chairman, Dhirubhai Ambani, is considering a \$6 billion investment in telecommunications.

Other attractive stocks cited by David Triple, who manages Pioneer India, the only open-end fund, are Tata Iron and Steel; Ballarpur Industries, India's largest paper producer; Great Eastern Shipping, a cash-rich company; and JCT Ltd., a manufacturer of textiles and synthetic fibres with a price-earnings ratio of 10.

Pioneer India managers are so high on India that the country's shares represent the second-largest holding in its Emerging Markets Fund, just behind Hong Kong and ahead of Mexico, Indonesia and Thailand. India is "like a very large ship," Mr. Triple told me in an interview in his office in downtown Boston. "It turns slowly. Most emerging markets are like small sailboats. They can make quick turns, but they can also be blown over."

One worry with a single-country open-end fund such as Pioneer India is that if stock prices suddenly drop, investors could panic and demand redemption of their shares. The fund man-

ager might be forced to sell into a thin and sharply declining market.

Mr. Triple recognises the risk, but he notes that Pioneer has experience running open-end funds in even thinner markets, notably Poland. Pioneer's fund there, has attracted 400,000 Polish investors; its value tripled last year.

Closed-end funds carry their own risks, mainly that the market will sour on a country and drive shares far below their "net asset value" — that is, the actual price of the stocks in the portfolio.

At the end of September, the India Fund was trading at a discount of 15 per cent, and the two other new funds — Morgan Stanley India Investment and Jardine Fleming India — were trading at discounts of 6 to 7 per cent.

Jardine Fleming closely tracks the Bombay Stock Exchange Sensitive Index, which is dominated by large companies such as Tata and Reliance. "The fund's focus on industrial stocks ... has clearly paid off handsomely," says William Dimming of Paine Webber Inc., who recently recommended Jardine to clients.

Mr. Triple's fund uses a "top-down" approach, he told me. "If sugar quotas come off, what happens?" He looks for companies that will benefit.

The Washington Post.

Croatian Serbs to get autonomy under new plan

By Mark Heinrich
Reuters

ZAGREB — An international peace plan for Croatia would reintegrate rebel Serbs by granting them local autonomy with their own assembly, flag and money, diplomats say.

Details of the politically charged blueprint have not been completed. The U.S., Russian, U.N. and European Union (EU) ambassadors drafting it have refused comment on a flood of speculative media reports in Croatia on its contents.

But the thrust of the plan, meant to overcome a chronic impasse in negotiations before war flares again, seems to be a balance between the separatist urge of the Serbs and the rigid centralism of Croatia's right-wing nationalists.

If successful, it would crank up pressure on separatist Serbs in neighbouring Bosnia to accept a big power peace plan already on the table for months, restoring peace across old Yugoslavia, diplomats hope.

The plan is intended as a foundation for serious negotiations. It will not be a "take it or leave it" package like the Bosnia's "contact group" plan, diplomats say.

But Croatian officials have already voiced suspicion at leaked elements of the plan, asserting that Zagreb will never accept "federalisation" weakening its sovereignty over its entire U.N.-recognised territory.

Croatia declared independence from Serbian-led federal Yugoslavia in 1991, but minority Serbs armed and sponsored by Belgrade revolted over the secession, seized a third of the republic and declared their own state.

"What the Croats and Serbs both crave is security and safety for their people and respect. Both sides have been driven by fear. Each side thinks the other has horns, the devil incarnate," said a diplomat familiar with the plan.

Croatian-Serb normalisation talks resumed on Thursday under U.N.-EU auspices after a seven-month suspension but they were to focus only on trade issues to build on a march ceasefire that ended two years of fighting.

Serbs in the breakaway Croatian enclave of Krajina are now under pressure to negotiate seriously for the first time because Belgrade, keen to have U.N. sanctions lifted, has told them to accept autonomy within Croatia.

The plan would offer self-rule to Krajina Serbs in regions where they formed the majority before 1991 in exchange for recognition of Croatia by Yugoslavia.

Previous autonomy deals in Europe inspired the

plan, including one for ethnic Swedes living on Finland's Aaland islands and another for German speakers in northern Italy. Krajina Serbs would give up the trappings of an independent state including control over police and borders, their own army and foreign policy. But they would get much in return.

This would include a regional parliament, a big departure in centralised Croatia where provinces have no representative assemblies with tax and spending powers.

Autonomy would apply to the western and southern part of the territory anchored by the rebel Serbs' main town, Knin, near the Adriatic coast, where they have long been in the majority.

It would apparently not apply to Serb-held eastern Croatia, including the town of Vukovar destroyed by Serb forces in a notorious 1991 siege, because Croats were in the majority there before then. Almost all the Croats were driven out during the war.

The restoration of central Croatian control over eastern Slavonia province could prove one of several major stumbling blocks to agreement based on the plan, analysts say.

Eastern Slavonia boasts oil and rich Danube basin farmland which the Serbs will be loath to give up.

The region has also been resettled by non-Croatian Serbs and virtually absorbed by next-door Serbia, unlike the Knin region which lacks a common border with Yugoslavia.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees forced to flee by militants of both sides in the conflict would also be gradually repatriated under the plan.

It is also believed to envisage allowing Krajina Serbs their own flag, special passport and currency, the name of which would be different from Croatia's but equal in value and issued by the central bank in Zagreb.

Dual icons of identity will be a problematic issue.

Krajina Serbs say they will never leave where they must fly Croatia's checkerboard flag and pass with its "kuna" currency. Both, for them, are symbols of Croatia's World War II Nazi puppet regime which murdered many thousands of Serbs.

But Croatia will resist the idea of a second flag and currency within one country — "a stage within a state" as Zagreb ministers already offended by the plan put it.

"Croats are not comfortable with regional autonomy. It smacks of federalisation which is a dirty word in former Yugoslavia, implying the right to secede," said a diplomat. "The plan rules out that right, though."

LETTERS

Setting record straight on phone deal

I REFER to Ms. Ghadeer Taher's article, (Jordan Times Oct. 31), regarding the signature of a cellular phone deal. It is necessary to point out that a few items mentioned in the article are misrepresentative of the facts.

Jordan is a country with economic potential. This potential can only be realised if investments and efforts are directed in the right direction. One of the most salient points regarding long lived economic prosperity is the application of the law and its jurisdiction on Jordan's corporates and private citizenry. Continuous, evenhanded, application of the law is paramount to financial, legal and political stability.

Ms. Taher's article states that Millicom, a U.S. registered company, is filing a lawsuit against the Jordanian government because of violation of the Arab Boycott Law and other Jordanian regulations. In truth, it is a Jordanian company, National Telecommunications Company (NTC), which is filing the law suit. NTC is affiliated with Millicom in the Cellular bid. Moreover, the lawsuit is being filed not because, the Arab Boycott Law or any other regulations

are being violated, but rather because NTC believes that the legal basis upon which the TCC awarded the tender is at odds with their bidding requirements.

NTC is filing a lawsuit against the Jordanian government and the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) because NTC believes that neither the government nor the TCC are abiding by a set of rules and regulations which they established. In the prequalification for bidding, several documents were required by the TCC. Jordan Mobile Telephone Services was unable to supply all the necessary documents. Under all "normal" tendering procedures JMTS would have been disqualified.

The TCC was directly asked about bidding qualifications in a pre-bid conference. The TCC confirmed in writing to all conference attendees that all bidding parties should abide by Jordanian law in all its aspects. The main case in point, therefore, is not the Arab Boycott or any regulation, but rather the credibility of the TCC and the application of Jordanian laws. NTC believes that the TCC mislead other bidders by stipulating applicable law but not abiding by such laws.

Ismail Bazian,
National Telecommunications Company (NTC),
Amman

A dream comes true

To the Editor:

A DREAM has come true. As a teacher, I would very much like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein who always sought to map the destiny and ambitions of his nation. The King's directives to the Ministry of Education to better the life of its employees and to allocate JD 20 million for the housing projects reflect the King's far-sightedness and appreciation of the intellectuals.

The Ministry of Education seeks to achieve the upgrading of its teachers academically and professionally. But, unfortunately, the ministry contributed less to the recreational activities. It is thanked for its endeavour to bring to existence the first teachers' club, which is located in western Amman. As a resident of eastern Amman, I would question the ministry for not setting up other clubs at various parts of Amman. I could proudly challenge the ministry that the majority of teachers do not know the whereabouts of its only club.

We hope that our ministry realises the fact that teachers living in Eastern Amman will be very grateful to witness the founding of new clubs in their districts.

Khader Al Atrash,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Feature
Jordan

Casat

Hidden joblessness in Russia reaching 'atrocious proportions' — ILO study

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — Russia's real unemployment rate is at least eight per cent, five times the officially-announced level of a mere 1.6 per cent, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) says in a report issued in Geneva Monday.

It says that hidden joblessness continues to rise in Russia, reaching "atrocious proportions" and bringing a spectacular jump in the number of workers without resources, said Guy Standing, who was in charge of the ILO study. It was carried out over a period of a year among 300,000 employees of 400 companies based in five major Russian industrial regions.

Mr. Standing sharply criticised what he called Russian

official underestimates of unemployment and the little attention given by Westerners — especially the ones advising the Russian government and such international agencies as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund — to employment problems.

If the situation continues, there will be a great risk of social "implosion", he said, and that could damage the Russian political balance by helping extremists.

The report says that no less than one-third of Russian factory employees are now actually the victims of hidden unemployment. Thus more than 20 per cent of them, 11 million people, are on long-term "administrative leave" — a term meaning that they

have been laid off without any remuneration at all.

The problem is most acute in the industrial city of Ivanovo, where more than 40 per cent of employees are actually on layoff, and hence do not really have a job or any remuneration, while not being officially considered unemployed, Mr. Standing said.

Another mechanism contributing to hidden joblessness is long maternity leaves, practiced at many companies. Almost six per cent of all women employed in industry are on maternity leave.

Mr. Standing said that makes no sense, since Russia has a very low fertility rate and there are two abortions for every birth.

He added that the percentage of women on maternity

leave reaches as much as 12 per cent in companies suffering the greatest difficulties.

Payless work is also found widely in Russia, contributing to hidden unemployment. The ILO reports says an increasing number of workers are not paid at all, while others receive only a minimum wage equivalent to \$20 a month — much less than the levels contained in their collective bargaining agreements and about a quarter of the average Russian monthly salary equivalent to around \$80.

The document stresses that 60 per cent of companies studied had chronic difficulties in paying workers, and half of them were afraid they would be driven into bankruptcy within a year.

Mr. Standing said young people and men suffer particularly from the vast upsets on the Russian job market, adding that the problem is no doubt related to the starting drop in Russian life expectancy, especially among men. From 65 years only about seven years ago, the figure has now fallen to 58 years for men, he said.

The plunge seems mainly due to a jump in deaths because of such problems as stress, suicides, heart attacks, etc., he said.

The ILO suggests the use of more enforceable collective bargaining agreements, obliging companies really to pay the stated salaries. They would have to restructure, reducing their work forces.

King Fahd apparently readying Saudis for belt-tightening

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — King Fahd, apparently preparing his people for belt-tightening, has referred to the high costs of deploying troops to counter the threat from Saddam Hussein.

In a speech televised late Sunday, the king did not specify how the costs would be met, but the Saudis are expected to shoulder some of the financial burden of October's U.S.-led deployment of troops to counter the latest Iraqi threats.

"We have been afflicted by a peril of the devil," King Fahd said in his address to military commanders at Haff Al Batin, the huge military base near the Iraqi border where he met President Clinton last week.

"If state bears tremendous amounts of expenditure, that

is our duty and we cannot let down our neighbours.

Saudis are convinced that, just as he prepared them for budget cuts when the price of oil tumbled, the king was now setting the stage for some drastic action in the 1995 budget now being prepared. The budget should be announced before the end of the year.

The value of the national currency, The riyal, slipped on Gulf financial markets in reaction to King Fahd's remarks. Dealers said they saw his remarks a confirmation of fresh cutbacks for the kingdom.

Since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, the Saudi government has been doubly squeezed. Desert Shield and Desert Storm cost the kingdom \$60 billion, while income has been lower than expected because of

anemic oil prices.

Saudi Arabia had to cut its current budget by nearly 20 per cent this year.

Although life for Saudi Citizens remains comfortable by world standards, cuts in government spending have an impact on almost everyone in an economy dominated by the state-run oil industry.

The troop deployments by the United States and its allies to counter the movement of Iraqi troops toward Kuwait are estimated to cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion a month. The Iraqi forces retreated, but the allied troops are staying for the time being.

On his tour of the region, President Clinton urged U.S. allies in the Gulf to bear their part of the cost.

Philippine economy shows strong growth

MANILA (AFP) — All sectors of the Philippine economy showed strong growth this year, raising hopes for a sustained rebound, but it may be threatened by a rebound in inflation, Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito said here Monday.

He said inflation was among the issues to be discussed in fresh talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in December.

Mr. Habito said in a report on the country's economic performance that 5.4 per cent gross national product (GNP) growth in the second quarter of this year "confirms the country is indeed poised for the long-sought economic take-off."

He said all three sectors of the economy — agriculture, industry and services — had showed strong growth, with all regions of the country "contributing positively to the favourable economic performance through greater in-

vestments, exports and positive growth in agricultural production."

However, the inflation rate had averaged 9.32 per cent in the second quarter even though it had since fallen to about 8.6 per cent in September.

He said this surge in prices occurred despite tight controls on money supply and monetary officials were now being forced to maintain stable interest rates.

Mr. Habito said this "fine tuning" had kept interest rates at a little over 10-to-11 per cent with inflation rates staying at single-digit levels. He added that he inflation rate target for the year was about nine-to-9.5 per cent.

"The moment inflation reaches double-digits, then we should worry about the possible boom-and-bust (cycle) happening again," he said, referring to the wide-

spread observation that the Philippines' short surges of economic growth are swiftly followed by a prolonged downturn.

IMF Director-General Michel Camdessus, in a visit earlier this month, praised the government's economic reforms but warned that uncontrolled inflation could reverse all the gains.

The Philippine government is forecasting at least five per cent GNP growth this year.

"Inflation is a cancer that if not tackled at an early stage, could risk undermining what has already been achieved, and if left unchecked could derail the whole programme," Mr. Camdessus told a news conference.

"The slaying of this dragon we call inflation is an absolute necessity," Manila obtained a \$684 million IMF loan earlier this

year. The release of this is conditional on the achievement of key targets in a mutually-agreed economic programme. This requires inflation to fall to below five per cent by 2000.

"You don't establish a monetary target and you go to play golf," Mr. Camdessus quipped.

The IMF official said he was impressed by the country's strong export confidence in the country, but warned that it was not the time to be complacent.

"If the impressive economic gains achieved thus far are not to prove transitory, it is important that the Philippines move quickly to the next phase of its economic transformation," he said.

He specifically decried the fact that only four per cent of the Philippines' population paid income taxes.

Lebanon's financial recovery builds up

BEIRUT (AFP) — Beirut must recover its former status as a regional financial centre, Lebanese experts say, but first it must restructure its banking sector and set up the necessary financial instruments.

Foreign investors are returning to Lebanon in increasing numbers as the capital gets a major face-lift to remove the scars left by the civil war.

According to Jean-Francois Lepetit, the French vice-president of Indosuez Bank, Lebanon's main asset in the absence of natural resources and major industries is its capacity to develop financial services.

Mr. Lepetit, who visited Beirut with other French bankers, stressed that Lebanon was "not a country of risk" because the Lebanese lira had stabilised since the

end of the 1975-1990 civil war and the country had a low level of debt.

Last month Lebanon issued \$400 million worth of Eurobonds to finance post-war reconstruction plans. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri expected his country to raise an extra \$425 million soon for more projects.

Lebanese who fled abroad during the conflict have started repatriating assets from overseas.

This has led to a \$1 billion balance of payments surplus for 1994, despite a chronic deficit in the trade balance, according to Finance Minister Foad Siniora.

Walid Audi, chairman of the Lebanese banking association, said banking secrecy and tax benefits "which practically make Lebanon a tax haven" had played a great role in attracting assets from

abroad.

Central bank governor Riad Salameh said efforts were being made to end the "dollarisation" which had undermined the economy.

He noted that level of dollar deposits had fallen from 90 per cent during the war to 61 per cent.

But Mr. Salameh said banks should build up their own funds, which took a beating when the lira collapsed during the war, in an effort to reach by March 1995 the solvency ratio expected in Europe.

Banks which failed to meet such conditions would have to disappear, allowing the banking system to be streamlined, he said.

Naaman Azhari, chairman of the Banque du Liban et d'Outre-Mer said Lebanese banks lacked sufficient funds to finance post-war projects.

The banks could only make short-term loans of up to two or three years.

Lebanon also needs modern financial instruments to acquire the funds needed for reconstruction projects, experts say.

A secondary market was set up in June and the Beirut stock market is expected to reopen within a few months with a capitalisation of some \$1.25 billion plus \$1.85 billion from Solidere, the company set up to rebuild Beirut's city centre.

Meanwhile foreign banking institutions such as Indosuez are seeking to set up local merchant banks in an effort to develop the Lebanese financial market.

Sixty per cent of Indosuez Capital Middle East will be held by the French group and the rest by Lebanese partners.

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High imports swell South Korea deficit

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's current account (C/A) deficit surged to \$4.4 billion in the first nine months of the year, because of a rapid increase in imports of capital and consumer goods, according to a central bank tally.

The nine-month shortfall was almost six times the \$730 million deficit posted in the same period of 1993, the Bank of Korea said. In September alone, South Korea's current account increased to a deficit of \$585.5 million from a surplus of \$372.3 million a year earlier, raising concern among business circles, the bank said.

Cuba says sugar industry open for foreign capital

HAVANA (R) — Cuba, pushing for foreign capital to revive its ailing economy, said Sunday the doors were open to possible foreign investment in its strategic sugar production sector.

Carlos Lage, a vice-president who is viewed as the architect of Cuba's economic reforms, told the opening of the annual Havana Trade Fair that from now, "no productive sector of the economy will be excluded from investment... foreign capital."

"I sugar production, which has always aroused a big interest, several proposals are being positively studied," Mr. Lage said.

He did not give details of these proposals in his address at the inauguration or at a

later news conference.

The sugar cane sector, communist-ruled Cuba's main export, had until recently been off-limits for foreign investment.

But its opening comes as the country tries to recover from two consecutive dismal harvests — of 4.2 million tonnes in 1992-93 and four million tonnes in 1993-94.

Since the collapse of the former Soviet Union, Cuba's old trade and aid ally, the sugar sector has been badly hit like other areas of the economy by lack of input — ranging from fuel and spare parts to fertilisers and pesticides.

The last two harvests had been conducted with just 22 per cent of the technical input used in previous years, Mr.

Lage said.

He touched on other areas related to foreign investment and commented on wider issues concerning the economy and current reforms in his remarks Sunday.

He noted there was some interest in Cuba by U.S. firms — currently barred from business by Washington's 32-year-old economic embargo — and said some companies were discussing signing letters of intent.

In the first six months of 1994, representatives of some 69 U.S. firms, 14 of them large businesses, had visited the island to assess prospects for future trade or investment, he said.

Signing letters of intent now would mean that such firms would be in a position

to move ahead quickly with business if and when the embargo is lifted. But Mr. Lage did not express any optimism the ban is likely to be lifted any time soon.

Cuban authorities, hoping to encourage a business lobby within the United States against Washington's policy, say U.S. firms are missing out on investment possibilities as the country opens up to foreign capital.

The island currently has some 165 joint ventures and other economic associations with firms from 38 countries, Mr. Lage said. A further 200 projects are under negotiation.

Mr. Lage also said Cuba was planning a new investment law to ensure greater transparency and security for investors. He did not give details or say when the law would be introduced.

He said foreign investment was possible in some service sectors and also in real estate, but did not give details.

On overall prospects in Cuba, whose inhabitants are suffering severe shortages ranging from food and con-

sumer goods to electric power and transport, Mr. Lage said the economy was not yet recovering but it was showing some positive signs.

He cited the poor sugar harvests as a key factor in slowing progress towards improvement. But he added that positive factors included growing foreign investment on the island, an improvement in the country's internal finances and the recuperation of some sectors.

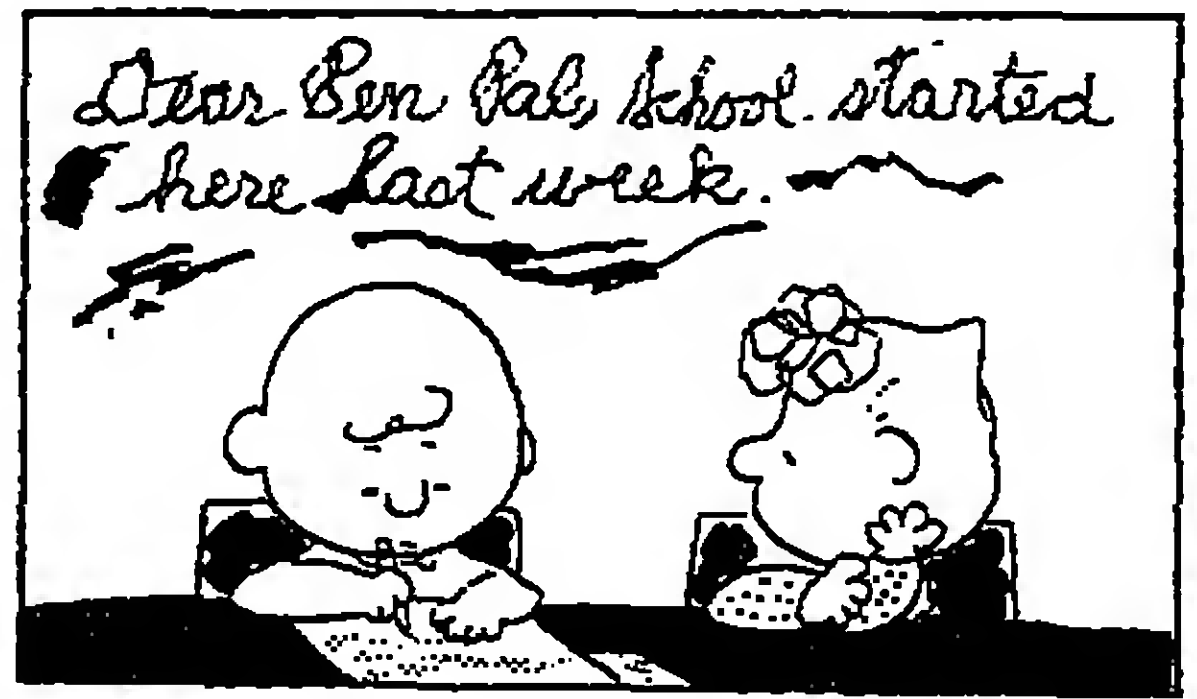
Mr. Lage said current economic reforms, which gathered pace from around mid-1993, were not aimed at creating a capitalist economy, but a planned economy with market elements.

"We do not have a strategy of a capitalist development," Mr. Lage said. "It's a strategy within the socialist system."

Reforms that introduced market mechanisms to some areas of the economy "do not mean abandoning a planned economy," he added.

Mr. Lage described the reforms as being part of "an integral concept" rather than "isolated measures."

Peanuts



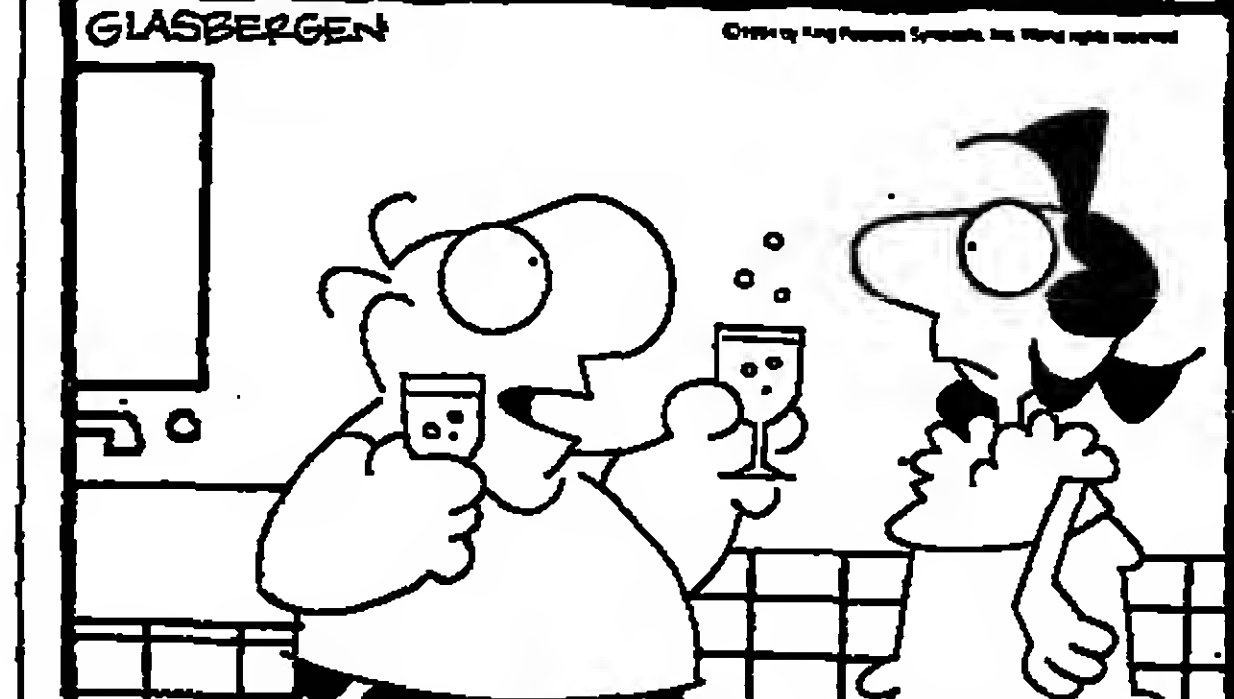
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TOSOP
CLATH
SWACHE
PINTUR

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: TRIPE MILKY NICETY PIGEON
Answer: What the monarch used on the newborn heir — A KING PIN

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Elaine Schorr

ACROSS
1 Word of mild surprise
5 Attempt
6 Swindle
13 Location
14 Customs
16 Hungarian dog
17 Take a quick look at
18 Point of view
19 Cry on the Cks
20 Do sarcon for
22 Arranged in two
23 Premier
25 Ruckus
26 Inexplicated
29 Feels deeply about
32 Markles
34 Wise as me!
35 Zoo resident
36 Low islands
37 Punter Edward
39 Name hat spot
40 Very old; abbr.
41 Firearm
42 Scout
43 City in Brazil
46 Soft breezes
47 Mountain range
48 Post
50 Single floor
52 Disobedience
56 Name in cosmetics
57 African antelope
58 Alone
59 Connection
60 Street show
62 Scholarly book
63 Means of access
64 Feel the lack of
65 Tie

DOWN
1 Catch the breath
2 Kiffer wine
3 Cornery
4 Warm give-aways
5 Chic (Slang)
6 Lane Penger's friend
7 James of film
8 Altonerment
9 Jason's vehicle
10 Goddess
11 Overridges
12 Pay excessive attention
13 To shelter
14 Weather word
15 Pull apart
16 Feminine ending
18 Bar preterence
19 Shory
20 Brownish-green
21 Ricket stage
22 Woo
23 Division of a poem
24 Puccini's lora
25 Lashes
26 Burn, in a way
27 "right with
28 the world
29 (Slang)
30 Eye doctors
31 James of film
32 Altonerment
33 Jason's vehicle
34 Horos glory
35 Mountain range
36 Pompadour
37 ish
38 Vexatious
39 Bull Sp.
40 Mats
41 Fowl place
42 of old
43 Vexatious
44 Bull Sp.
45 Mats

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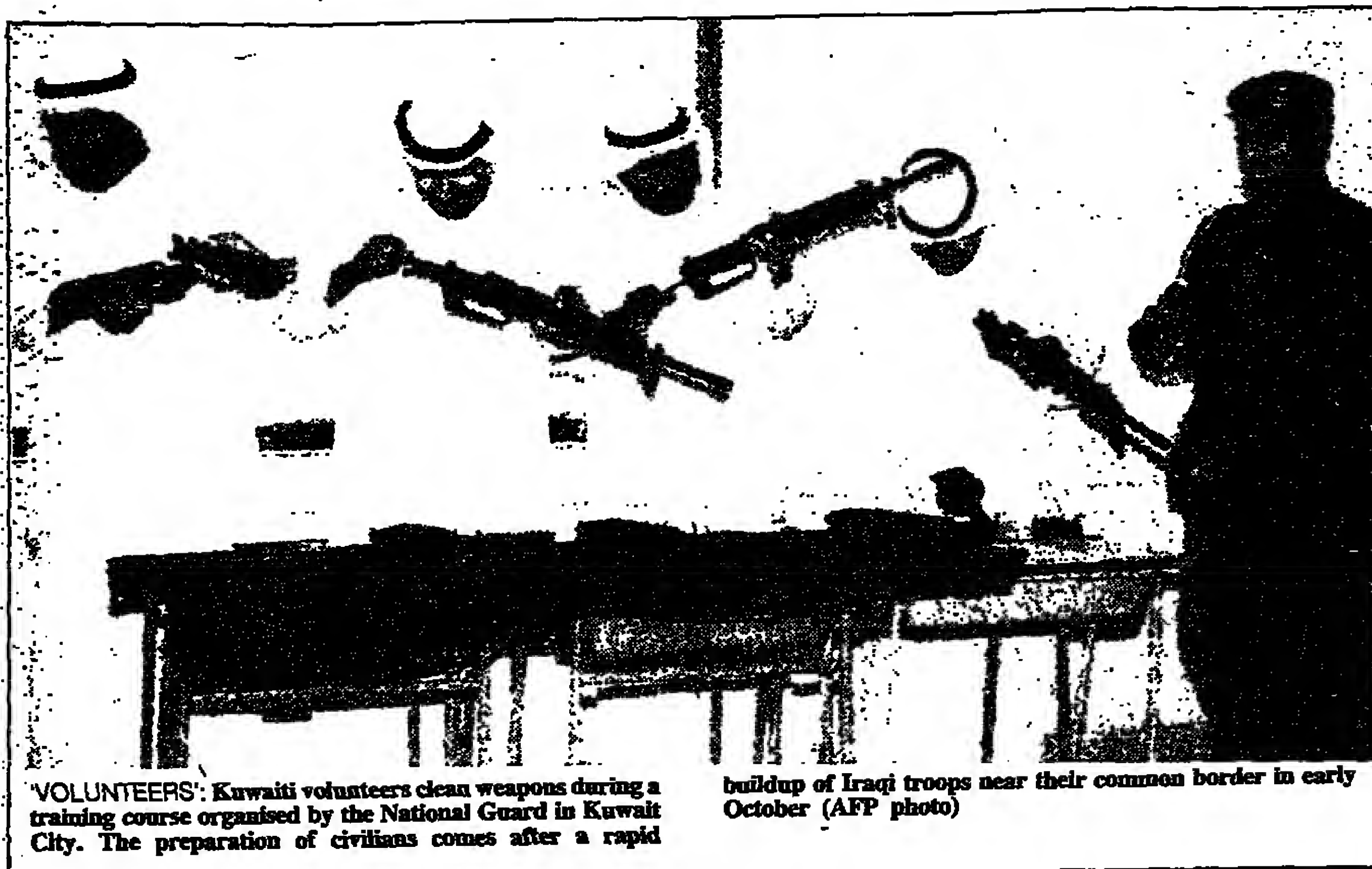
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VOLUNTEERS: Kuwaiti volunteers clean weapons during a training course organised by the National Guard in Kuwait City. The preparation of civilians comes after a rapid

buildup of Iraqi troops near their common border in early October (AFP photo)

Palestinians take over Rafah post

RAFAH (Agencies) — The Palestinians raised their flag for the first time at the international border with Egypt on Monday, as they took joint control with Israel of travel into and out of the Gaza Strip.

Israeli General Aryeh Shiffman symbolically ceded shared responsibility in a handshake with Palestinian Brigadier General Ziyad Al Atrash.

"Welcome to the Palestinian authority," read a new sign in English, Arabic and Hebrew, with a portrait of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat above it.

Tiny black, white, red and green flags framed the board, while full-size Palestinian colours fluttered at the entrance and exit of the border post, near Israeli flags.

"Our taking charge at the border, according to the agreement, is a second step on the way to peace," said Mr. Atrash. "We are now establishing peace between the Palestinian people and Israel."

Palestinian police and officials in passport, customs and security departments were to begin work on Tuesday when travellers would have documents stamped with new Palestinian authority stamps.

According to the May 4 Cairo autonomy agreement between Israel and the PLO, Israel retains final control

over the borders of Rafah, and at the bridge into Jordan. Mr. Shiffman gave Mr. Atrash a copy of the 63-page border agreement.

A similar ceremony was due to be held at the King Hussein Bridge border crossing from the West Bank on Tuesday, officials said.

The new Israeli and Palestinian colleagues at Rafah had their photographs taken together by the new flags and welcome signs.

Some 120 Palestinian employees were gradually to start operating from Tuesday, including armed policemen, passport officers and civilian administrative officials, said Majdi Al Khalidi, director-general at the Palestinian planning ministry.

He said Israelis would help train the Palestinians in the coming week.

The Palestinian area of the border post now has one channel for Palestinian travellers to the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho and another for those living in the occupied West Bank, while foreigners will use a third channel.

Israeli, Palestinian and foreign travellers first go through a gate jointly operated by both sides before being separated.

Israel maintains a discreet control over the Palestinian channels. Mr. Khalidi said final dif-

ferences in the operation of the border accord had been smoothed out in Casablanca, where chief Palestinian and Israeli negotiators Nabil Shaath and General Danny Rotshchild met on the fringes of a Middle East economic forum.

Israel eased tension with the PLO on Sunday by promising to lift a Gaza border closure.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said after talks with Mr. Arafat in Casablanca he would begin to reopen the border with the Gaza Strip and Israeli-occupied West Bank in two days.

The Gaza Strip, from which 30,000 Palestinian labourers enter Israel daily to work, was closed after a bus bombing Oct. 19 that killed 22 people.

Mr. Rabin met for an hour with Mr. Arafat.

It was their first meeting since the Oct. 19 bombing and last week's signing of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty, which Mr. Arafat has strongly criticised.

"I informed Chairman Arafat that starting Tuesday, two days from today, we gradually will lift the closure," Mr. Rabin told reporters after he and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke with Mr. Arafat.

The Palestinians, however, demanded a complete and immediate reopening of the Gaza crossings.

The Israeli prime minister said the two decided they would hold talks again in a week. A Palestinian source said on condition of anonymity the meeting would take place Nov. 7 in Erez, the main Gaza-Israel crossing.

Israel Radio reported that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres told Mr. Arafat that Israel may use its forces in the autonomy zones unless he cracks down successfully on militant groups responsible for recent attacks.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, Mr. Arafat's minister of culture and information, said the closure policy should be lifted immediately and completely.

"because collective punishment is not a policy that will be helpful for creating an atmosphere of trust between the two nations,"

Israeli soldiers have arrested seven militants from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, at a refugee camp on the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said.

The swoop on Sunday night followed the detention last Wednesday of nine Hamas men from Jalazun refugee camp and a neighbouring village just north of Ramallah.

According to Israel Radio, some 150 Hamas activists have been detained since the Oct. 19 bombing. The army refuses to comment on the arrests.

Rabin wants unconditional negotiations with Lebanon

Hizbollah rejects Hrawi proposal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, reacting to a Lebanese proposal, said Monday that Israel would not promise to withdraw from South Lebanon just to hold peace talks.

President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon proposed that an Israel-Lebanon committee be set up to negotiate a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

Mr. Hrawi said he would guarantee an end to guerrilla attacks on Israel from southern Lebanon if Israel agreed (see page 2).

Asked about the proposal, Mr. Rabin did not dismiss it outright, saying he had requested clarifications from U.S. mediators.

"If the meaning is that we have to commit ourselves to withdraw from the present line in South Lebanon for having this committee, it's a non-starter," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

Mr. Rabin also expressed scepticism that Mr. Hrawi could guarantee a ceasefire by Hizbollah forces during negotiations.

"On his promises alone, without putting it to a real test, we will not do anything," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin reiterated Israel's demand that in advance of negotiations the

Lebanese army must first disarm and disperse the Hizbollah, which has led a guerrilla campaign of bombings and ambushes against Israeli troops in South Lebanon as well as periodic rocket attacks on northern Israeli settlements.

If the Lebanese army proves over a period of six months that it can maintain calm, a peace treaty can then be negotiated over the next three months, Mr. Rabin said Monday.

Israel has said it would not withdraw until Syria pulled out its 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon. Israel maintains about 2,000 soldiers in a "security zone" it created in 1985 after withdrawing the bulk of its army from Lebanon.

Mr. Rabin also said negotiating a timetable of withdrawal was not enough and that talks must be capped by a full peace treaty.

"Whatever we intend to do is only for signing a peace treaty, normalising relations, have embassies, open boundaries for movement of people and goods," Mr. Rabin said.

Hizbollah rejected the Hrawi proposal.

One of the group's leading members said such a proposal does not "concern us."

"We assert that the resist-

ance is out first and last choice to reach peace with dignity and to get our rights," said Ibrahim Al Sayyed. "We are not concerned by such proposals and agreements."

Mr. Hrawi's offer came a day after he was briefed on the telephone by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Damascus on Thursday.

In August, Mr. Rabin put forward a withdrawal over nine months in exchange for the prior disarming of Hizbollah.

Lebanon has not held talks with Israel since February and progress depends largely on Damascus, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

Israel Radio said Mr. Rabin, who returned on Monday to Israel from the regional economic conference in Morocco, had discussed the Hrawi proposal with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who also attended the Casablanca conference.

"The prime minister told our diplomatic reporter... that if Lebanon did not put the withdrawal of the army from South Lebanon as a precondition on the committee's discussions, then they were talking about an interesting idea," the radio said.

Israeli tourists unlikely to come before Parliament ratifies treaty

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli tourists are likely to be allowed to visit Jordan only after the Jordanian Parliament ratifies the peace treaty that the Kingdom signed with the Jewish state on Oct. 26, officials and travel agents said Monday.

According to officials, travel agents acting on behalf of Israeli tour groups have filed applications for entry permits from the Ministry of Interior, but the ministry would be issuing the permits only after the legislature ratifies the treaty as a draft law and His Majesty King Hussein signs it, clearing the way for its enactment.

In the meantime, Israel has been issuing entry permits for Jordanians wishing to visit the Jewish state and the occupied territories on a case-by-case basis, according to reports from Israel.

"They are not considered as tourists," said a travel agent. "These permissions are issued on the basis of personal or business reasons."

Jordanian newspapers

have been contacted by a large number of Israeli tour operators seeking to release advertisements offering their services. But, no Jordanian paper is known to have accepted to publish those ads.

"As far as organised tourism is concerned, we are still waiting for government instructions as to how to proceed," said the travel agent. "We believe that the situation will clear itself up in the next few days."

Travel agents will be channeling the entry permit applications to the concerned authorities until Jordan and Israel establish diplomatic relations and open embassies in each other's territory.

The peace treaty calls for the establishment of diplomatic relations in one month after signing of the document.

Jordan and Israel have agreed that 550 Israeli tourists holding Israeli passports would be allowed into the Kingdom every day through the southern crossing near Aqaba which was opened on Aug. 8 and the northern crossing — The Sheikh Hussein

Bridge — which is expected to be opened soon; 250 will be allowed in through the south and the rest across the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, whose name is expected to be changed into "Green Valley Bridge" or "Peace Bridge."

The number of Israeli tourists allowed to visit the ancient city of Petra will be initially limited to 150 per day because of the limited facilities available there, Jordanian spokesman Marwan Masher said on Oct. 27.

The Aqaba-Eilat crossing is now limited to third country nationals. However, Israelis holding non-Israeli passports are also allowed in.

The government has sent the peace treaty to Parliament with a request that it be treated as emergency law. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament has started studying the document, and it is expected that the committee would present its findings to the full House early next week, clearing the way for floor debate on the issue.

The Israeli parliament (Knesset) approved the peace treaty on Oct. 25.

Ali Mahdi reshuffles his Somali alliance

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somalia's self-proclaimed "interim president" Ali Mahdi Mohammad and his alliance partners announced Monday a reshuffle within the alliance to better confront their main rival, General Mohammed Farah Aideed.

The Somali Salvation Alliance said it was setting up a new steering committee to be headed by Mr. Ali Mahdi, who has refused to attend a conference among the country's warring factions unless it was chaired by the United Nations.

Mr. Ali Mahdi is the main rival to Gen. Aideed, Somalia's leading warlord, who has called other clan leaders to the reconciliation conference in the embattled capital Mogadishu on Tuesday.

Southern Mogadishu, controlled by Gen. Aideed, has for a week been the scene of heavy clan fighting.

The aim of the conference would be to give Somalia a government after more than three years of clan warfare accompanied by mass famine following the ouster of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre.

Mr. Ali Mahdi said that though he wanted a conference held at the U.N. headquarters in Mogadishu, he would be prepared to go to the towns of Kismayu or Baidoa or the Kenyan capital Nairobi, but he stressed that "UNOSOM (the U.N. Operation in Somalia) has to play an important role, not only as a facilitator."

The U.N. Security Council's current president, Colin

Keating, of New Zealand, warned on a visit here last week that international aid would continue only if the clans in the Horn of Africa country agree to reconcile.

If that happened, he told a press conference in Mogadishu, the 16,000 U.N. troops here would remain till the end of March next year, and reconstruction aid would continue beyond that date.

The current UNOSOM mandate expires on Monday. The Security Council must endorse continuation of the mission until March 31, already the target date for their pull out. A vote is expected this week.

Zimbabwe will withdraw its peacekeepers from Somalia by the March 31 target date for the withdrawal of all U.N. forces, an army spokesman said in Harare on Monday.

"It is definite Zimbabwe is going to pull out and the process will be in phases, but one cannot say exactly when they will start," the spokesman told AFP.

Confirming the withdrawal, Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said: "The mandate of the U.N. expires next year by which time we hope to have completely withdrawn our troops."

The Zimbabwean spokesman said since the majority of the Zimbabwean troops man the Mogadishu airport, they would probably be the last to leave in March.

Zimbabwe has had a battalion of 1,000 troops in Somalia since January 1993 and has suffered three casualties.

Fighting rages in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Presidential troops battled rival factions with rockets, air strikes and machine-gun fire in heavy fighting that touched all parts of the beleaguered capital Monday.

Two of Kabul's hospitals reported 35 wounded by midday. There was no immediate figure on the number killed.

A day earlier, at least 10 civilians were killed and about 100 injured.

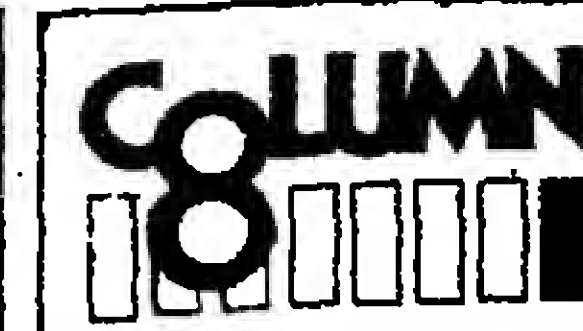
The fighting began before dawn Monday as Hezb-e-Islami forces, led by telegenic Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, launched a ground offensive in eastern Kabul, said General Najibullah, a government military spokesman.

"Hezb-e-Islami was using ground troops, and the government answered with jets," said Gen. Najibullah, who like most Afghans is known by only one name.

"Today is the last day of a three-day ceasefire," he said with a sardonic smile.

As he spoke to the Associated Press at the Defence Ministry in the centre of Kabul, incoming rockets from Hezb-e-Islami positions crashed into the city.

In addition to heavy fighting in the east, there was a non-stop rockets and machine-gun fire on the western edge of the city, where Hezb-e-Wahadat, an ally of



Major bodyguards lose secret phone details

LONDON (R) — A list of secret phone numbers for Prime Minister John Major's home, offices and security staff was accidentally left in a hotel room, a British news paper reported Monday. The tabloid Sun newspaper said the document, which included serial numbers for police guns, bodyguards' birth dates and blood groups and even the names of some of their spouses, was left behind a bed in the room in West London. Police confirmed they were investigating, but a spokesman for Mr. Major's office said: "We do not consider this a breach of security," the Sun said it used the list to call a protection squad mobile phone, reporting that the man who answered exclaimed: "Good God how did you get this number?"

Germans first to cross Gobi Desert on foot

BEIJING (AP) — Detouring around impassable sand mountains, fighting snow, wind and freezing temperatures, a German team has crossed China's Gobi Desert on foot and believes it is the first to do so. "Not one step was a gift to us," leader Bruno Baumann said Monday of the 21-day trip in September through Asia's largest desert. It was an expedition of the sort that is "rare in the world today" because no one had covered the same ground before and the team had no idea what to expect, he added. Mr. Baumann estimated that the team walked more than 500 kilometres (310 miles) — about 200 kilometres (125 miles) of that zigzagging around steep sand mountains that their pack camels at first refused to climb. The 30 camels were carrying 85 25-litre (2.65-quart) tanks of drinking water, food for the 15-member team, and telecommunications and other equipment. To get them moving, their drivers had to light fires under the camels, who would lie down when faced with a mountain.

Experts warn loud snoring can kill

BEIJING (AFP) — Mention otolaryngology to most people and you would receive a blank stare, but Chinese medical experts at the cutting edge of the field are uncovering a heavy sleeper's worst nightmare — snoring can kill. If your snoring tops the 60-decibel mark and you feel slightly choked when falling asleep, then according to Wang Youfu, who heads the Otolaryngology Department at the Beijing Sixth Hospital, you should consult a doctor as soon as possible. China Daily quoted Dr. Wang as saying that research had showed snoring to be a pathological state in which impairment of breathing develops after falling asleep. If breathing is suspended at least 30 times for 10-second stretches in a seven-hour sleeping period, a condition known as obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome (OSAS) develops. OSAS sufferers experience daytime drowsiness, headaches and amnesia, and gradually fall victim to hypertension and cardiovascular complications that can result in death, Dr. Wang said. Overweight people, especially obese men in their 40s and 50s are especially prone to the potentially lethal disease. Dr. Wang said, citing an analysis of 100 cases that included 95 patients who were overnight. Far forming around the throat constricts the respiratory tract, causing breathing difficulties and reducing the amount of oxygen reaching the brain. Abnormalities in the anatomy of the mandible, tongue and posterior nostril can also lead to dangerous snoring, he said. Corrective surgery on the abnormalities or to remove fat from people's necks has shown to have a 95 per cent cure rate, said Dr. Wang, such surgery on 200 patients. As a last resort, sufferers sleep on a safe night's sleep can wear a special contraption for holding the tongue and keeping it slightly forward in the mouth to reduce the length of the breathing stoppages.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian business team visits Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Sixteen Egyptian businessmen and officials held talks with Palestinians here Monday in an effort to work together in agriculture, tourism and industry, an official said. The group plans to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat later this week, said Hassan Hegazi, secretary-general of the Gaza Chamber of Commerce. Invited by the head of Gaza's chamber of commerce, Mohammad Al Kidwa, the team of representatives from North Sinai province and chamber of commerce, was to visit factories in the autonomous Gaza Strip, and in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Mr. Hegazi said. "They will study matters of benefit to both Palestinians and North Sinai," he added. They were also to travel to Jerusalem during their three-day tour of the West Bank, starting Tuesday, Mr. Hegazi said. A month ago, Gaza's chamber of commerce hosted a delegation of Egyptian industrialists from the private and public sectors, he said.

U.S., Britain issue warnings in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Britain on Monday advised its nationals to avoid travelling in fundamentalist strongholds following the killing of a holidaymaker last week, while the United States warned its citizens to be on their guard after receiving bomb threats. The U.S. embassy said it had received warnings of bomb attacks on "American institutions" in Egypt, and said it had alerted its residents here. An embassy spokesman refused to give any details of the threats. The British consulate issued an advisory telling Britons not to travel "by road, rail or river" through the southern provinces of Minya, Assiut, Sohag and Qena north of the major tourist destination Luxor. Suspected fundamentalists killed a British holidaymaker in an attack on a minibus 23 kilometres north of Luxor on Oct. 23. The advisory issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said that more than 250,000 Britons visited Egypt in 1993 without experiencing threats to their safety. "But total security cannot be guaranteed," it said. "Further incidents are to be expected. All visitors should be vigilant and are reminded to behave and dress discreetly."

Cyprus protests Turkish minister's statement

NICOSIA (AP) — Recent comments by Turkey's foreign minister rejecting Cyprus' reunification prove that Ankara has expansionist intentions to establish a protectorate on the war-divided island, the government spokesman said Monday. Spokesman Yannis Cassoulides said that Turkish Foreign Minister Muztar Soyas "has revealed even more clearly that Turkey supported the dissolution of the Cyprus state and the recognition of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state." He was commenting on statements by Mr. Soyas in an interview published Sunday by the semi-official Athens News Agency of Greece. Mr. Soyas was quoted as saying that there were two states in Cyprus and that the Security Council resolutions calling for the reunification of the island could not be implemented. Cypriot President Glafkos Clerides was to protest the Soyas statements to the U.N. representative in Cyprus later Monday during a final meeting between Mr. Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

Court sets date for start of Geagea trial

BEIRUT (AFP) — The trial of former Christian warlord Samir Geagea on charges of involvement in the murder of a Christian leader and a February church bombing is set to open on Nov. 19, the president of the Court of Justice said on Monday. If convicted Dr. Geagea faces the death sentence over the murder of Dany Chamoun, a rival Christian leader, and his family in 1990 and a bombing at a Sunday mass in February that killed 11 worshippers. He has also been charged of involvement in the murder of a former member of his disbanded Lebanese Forces militia, Elias Zayek, in 1989, which also carries the death sentence. Dr. Geagea has been detained at the defence ministry since April 21. He has denied involvement in all three cases. Last March the government outlawed the Lebanese Forces party which Dr. Geagea had formed after his militia was disbanded at the end of the 1975-1990 civil war, accusing it of fomenting confessional strife.

Iranian women protest ban on headscarves

TEHRAN (AFP) — More than 1,000 Iranian women rallied outside the French embassy in Tehran to protest a ban on Islamic headscarves in French high schools. The demonstrators, dressed in the traditional black chador and wearing veils, voiced support for Muslim girls expelled from schools in France and called on the French government to revoke the "discriminatory" ban. "We support the fight put up by our Muslim sisters in France, who were expelled because of their Islamic hijab (covering), a symbol of courage and respect for women," shouted the demonstrators who were mainly students from Tehran University. "Rise up, my sisters, to have the ban lifted." The embassy admitted a group representing the protesters to receive a statement on the issue and the rally calmly dispersed later under the watchful eyes of police. The rally was part of an anti-French campaign launched a few days ago by the Iranian authorities and the press. Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi condemned the ban on Sunday and warned that the "Islamic World would not ignore the infringement on the natural rights" of Muslim schoolgirls in France.

Iran, Bosnia and Croatia to boost ties

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran, Bosnia and Croatia have agreed to meet twice a year to boost economic and political ties, Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency reported. In a tripartite meeting in Tehran Sunday, attended by Iran's vice president, Hassan Habibi, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Croatian Prime Minister Nikica Valentic, the three sides called on the international community to support Bosnia and Croatia in their war against the Serbs, IRNA reported. It said a joint communique, released simultaneously in Tehran, Sarajevo and Zagreb, regretted the easing of U.N. sanctions against Serbia. The U.N. decision was "rewarding the aggressor," according to the communique reported by IRNA. In a meeting Sunday with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, Mr. Silajdzic thanked Iran for supporting his country.

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The U.N. Security Council's current president, Colin Keating, of New Zealand, warned on a visit here last week that international aid would continue only if the clans in the Horn of Africa country agree to reconcile. If that happened, he told a press conference in Mogadishu, the 16,000 U.N. troops here would remain till the end of March next year, and reconstruction aid would continue beyond that date. The current UNOSOM mandate expires on Monday. The Security Council must endorse continuation of the mission until March 31, already the target date for their pull out. A vote is expected this week. Zimbabwe will withdraw its peacekeepers from Somalia by the March 31 target date for the withdrawal of all U.N. forces, an army spokesman said in Harare on Monday. "It is definite Zimbabwe is going to pull out and the process will be in phases, but one cannot say exactly when they will start," the spokesman told AFP. Confirming the withdrawal, Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said: "The mandate of the U.N. expires next year by which time we hope to have completely withdrawn our troops." The Zimbabwean spokesman said since the majority of the Zimbabwean troops man the Mogadishu airport, they would probably be the last to leave in March. Zimbabwe has had a battalion of 1,000 troops in Somalia since January 1993 and has suffered three casualties.